# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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Thursday
10 March 1988

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## Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-047

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## 10 March Middle East and South Asia Review

LD101400 [Editorial Report]

### Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced four more missile strikes on Tehran between 1500 GMT 9 March and 0930 GMT the following day. An Iraqi military communique carried by the radio also reported nine Iraqi air strikes on Iranian targets, including Dezful, Rasht, Ilam, Navahand, Bakhtaran, and Hamadan.

While Iran announced no further missile strikes on Baghdad, a military communique cited by Tehran radio stated that the IRGC Navy fired 10 missiles at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr 10 March, setting the target ablaze and inflicting "heavy losses." Iranian jets bombed Iraqi positions in the Al-'Amarah and Basra areas the same morning, according to IRNA. On the effects of Iraqi attacks, IRNA reported that the missile strikes on Tehran caused "a number" of casualties, while Tehran radio said five people were killed in the Iraqi air raids on other cities.

An Iraqi communique cited by Voice of the Masses stated that "a number" of Iraqi civilians were killed in Iranian attacks, which included a 9 March air raid on the Arbat district of Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

As for the results of Iraq's 8 March attack on a maritime target, Nicosia radio said the target was a Cypriot tanker, which suffered only "slight" damage.

In further clarification of the USSR's position on missile supplies, Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vsevolod Oleandrov acknowledged that his country has supplied missiles to Iraq, but he reaffirmed that the missiles did not have sufficient range to strike Tehran from Iraqi territory, according to KYODO. Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov also said the missiles were supplied under conditions ruling out modifications to increase their range, the report added.

In Baghdad, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published a 7 March article accusing Syria of training Iranian pilots at an air base near Latakia, adding that such acts make the Syrian regime "worse" than Israel.

### Israel

**Shamir on U.S. Visit**—In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that he will not give in to "pressure" by accepting Secretary of State Shultz' initiative, but he added that he does not want to avoid facing up to the "battlefield" in the United States. By presenting the Likud's position and making efforts to change opinions, Shamir said he hopes to halt the "deterioration" in the attitudes of various friends and circles in the United States and throughout the world.

In a related report, Jerusalem radio broadcast Shamir's remark that the United States "can afford to change its mind" on the Shultz plan, whereas Israel cannot afford to give up on principles that can determine its fate. According to the radio, Shamir also described the Shultz plan as a "violation of prior U.S. commitments."

On the internal Israeli debate, Shamir told Jerusalem television that the Inner Cabinet will not vote on the Shultz plan until after his return from the United States, and he added that a decision on early elections must likewise await his return. IDF radio subsequently reported that the Alignment and Likud have held "secret" contacts in recent days to coordinate an election date.

**Security Situation**—Three Arabs were killed and over 12 others were injured during violent clashes with the IDF in the Ramallah and Hebron areas 9 March, Jerusalem radio reported. Three more Arab youths were wounded when the IDF fired at rioters in Hebron during the night, an IDF officer disclosed in remarks broadcast by IDF radio. The officer denied reports that the rioters had attacked Jewish homes in Hebron. The IDF has begun using a gravel launcher to disperse rioters in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted.

In the aftermath of the recent terrorist attack in the Negev, a military source cited by THE JERUSALEM POST revealed that the IDF has "intensified" its activity along the border with Egypt. The police affairs minister said earlier that it is "clear the three terrorists entered Israel from Egypt, adding that the infiltration was undetected due to weather conditions and topography, according to Jerusalem radio.

### PLO, Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat lambasted the Shultz plan in a message to Palestinians in the occupied territories, telling them that the secretary of state came to the Middle East to present "the old Reagan plan with a new slogan" and to impose a new form of "slavery" on the Palestinians. The PLO leader said Shultz brought "dead, rotten plans to market them anew in the slave market which is regrettably open in the region, exerting pressure on some Arab parties to make them accept his dangerous deal."

In contrast, an editorial in Amman's THE JERUSALEM STAR welcomed Shultz' proposals as "the first serious U.S. bid to achieve a balanced settlement in the region," adding that they may offer a "unique historic opportunity" to realize a just peace. The paper noted that the

U.S. proposals "respond favorably" to Arab demands for an international conference and for a solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Meanwhile, the JORDAN TIMES criticized the PLO's 7 March terrorist attack as "inappropriately timed," asserting that it will detract from the "political gains" resulting from the Palestinian "uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza.

In other developments in Amman, PLO and Jordanian officials held a meeting of the joint committee to bolster Palestinian "steadfastness," AL-DUSTUR reported, adding that they discussed ways of spending a 19-million-dollar contribution from Saudi Arabia. King Husayn returned from visits to Iraq and Kuwait, where he discussed the Shultz proposals and the "Iranian escalation" of the Gulf war with the Iraqi president and Kuwaiti amir, Amman radio noted.

### Iran-Saudi Arabia

In remarks cited by Tehran radio, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry accused Saudi Arabia of "laying the groundwork" for preventing Iranian pilgrims from "actively participating" in the hajj. The spokesman took issue with a recent statement carried by SPA that the Saudi Government will not permit any actions that "contravene the sanctity of the pilgrimage," including demonstrations, speech-making, and the distribution of literature, and he asserted that the hajj is the "best place and time" for expressing support for Muslim causes, especially the Palestinian uprising. The spokesman also reiterated Iran's view that the Saudi regime is not a suitable custodian of the two holy mosques.

### Libya

**Cease-Fire Violation Denied**—Libya "has nothing to do with events" along the eastern and Sudanese borders or inside Chad, a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA 10 March declared, adding that the clashes are part of the "tribes' movement for rebellion." The statement, which came in response to Chadian allegations that Libya violated the OAU cease-fire, made the counteraccusation that the Habre regime is seeking "excuses for aggression" against Libya.

**Al-Qadhdhafi on Legal System**—In a speech carried by Tripoli television, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi addressed the General People's Congress on the importance of consolidating the legal system and the proper administration of justice. The Libyan leader ordered the abolition of all "extraordinary courts" with the exception of the "permanent revolutionary court."

Furthermore, Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated his proposal that the death sentence be abolished and replaced by life imprisonment with no possibility of parole or pardon, and, in line with his concept of Libya as a land of freedom, he urged those who have been banned from traveling abroad to be at the passport office 12 March "to end this matter."

**Tunisian Vessels Released**—Two Tunisian dredges and 25 crewmen, which were recently detained at the port of Zuwarah, were released in accordance with Col al-Qadhdhafi's order on freeing prisoners, JANA reported.

### Egypt

**Libyan Planes Depart**—Three of the four Libyan MiG-23's that made emergency landings at an Egyptian air base 1 March, took off for home, MENA reported, adding that the fourth warplane would depart as soon as technicians finish inspecting it.

**Asyut Demonstrators in Custody**—Sixty-nine demonstrators, who were arrested 7 March for storming an Asyut hall, were remanded in custody for 15 days on various charges, including the illegal possession of firearms, MENA reported.

### Afghanistan

In remarks cited by TASS, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil accused Pakistan of "impermissible maneuvering" with the aim of "disrupting" the indirect negotiations in Geneva and causing a "deadlock." The Afghan authorities are making serious efforts toward national reconciliation and the formation of a coalition government, and they will not yield to "Pakistan's diktat" on this issue, Wakil stressed.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat on 'Slavery' of Shultz Plan, 'Uprising'

*JN092009 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1734 GMT 9 Mar 88*

["Text" of message from Yasir 'Arafat to "the heroic Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland" on the passage of 3 months since the "continuous sacred uprising against the Zionist occupation forces;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O steadfast masses, O heroic revolutionaries, O people of struggle and heroism: God has soldiers, who if they decide to do something, he will help them. O my kinfolk and my beloved ones, the servants of the holy mosque; O guards of the Nativity and Sepulchre Churches, you are today making new realities in the epic of Palestinian steadfastness. You are writing these realities with light and fire.

O my kinfolk and beloved ones in the occupied homeland: You have turned your big prison into a prison for your jailers by burying their sick dreams of controlling our people, land, and nation. O stone throwers: Today, you are achieving this splendid revolutionary harmony with the RPG throwers in the steadfast camps in Lebanon and in the hot battles in southern Lebanon, together with all the heroes of the military operations and the strike forces in all areas and positions.

Thus, you are rewriting the history of the nation. It is a history in which there is no ambiguity, retreat, weakness, disclosed maneuvers, or suspect plans, but a road lit with torches of martyrdom and martyrs, watered by heroes' blood, and paved by prisoners' tribulations and the givings, sacrifices, pains, and sufferings of all of the people—children, men, and women—in all areas of resistance defending the entire Arab territory in this frontline position where our masses are standing to form human walls to prevent the racist Zionists from invading the entire Arab plain. You are fighting with stones and with hearts filled with belief and unconquerable will and determination.

O my beloved ones, 90 days of glory, pride, and dignity have passed in the age of this sacred uprising in our revolution's march. O my kinfolk and beloved ones, you are making this huge tremor by confronting the Israeli violence, the official brutal organized terrorism of the Zionist military gang, and their hideous bloody hysteria, which will not go unpunished. With this creativeness and through the flow of the pure blood of martyrs and the wounded, you are shaking the Zionist society from its roots. At the same time, you are giving your just cause a rejuvenating will and great hope.

Throughout the entire world you are bringing about further admiration voiced by the entire international public, an admiration whose echoes reverberate among all friends and brothers and even among foes and neutral parties. The support voiced for you and for the justice of your cause has become widespread and the circle of isolation has begun to narrow around your enemies.

Yes, my beloved ones, all of my beloved ones; yes, my kinfolk, all of my kinfolk; you have taught the Zionist enemy eloquent lessons that have also affected the allies, helpers, and protectors who stand alongside it; namely, the imperialists and colonialists, foremost among which is the U.S. Administration whose President hastened to dispatch his envoys and his secretary of state to the region under instructions from the Jewish leaders in the United States in a failed bid to save the imperialist spearhead in the region—represented by this Zionist entity—from the the imbroglio in which you have cornered it.

Shultz came to the region carrying dead, rotten plans to market them anew in the slave market which is regrettably open in the region exerting pressure on some Arab parties to make them accept his dangerous deal which smacks of suspect odors and have them particiate in the conspiracy which seeks to abort the blessed uprising, contain it, and assume control over our people's masses, their valiant revolution, and their genuine holy war.

Shultz came to present the old Reagan plan with a new slogan and to impose a new form of slavery on our people, the slavery of the joint rule and the power-sharing plan, a slavery similar to the one represented by enacting the bantustan-style slavery being imposed by the racist Pretoria regime, the twin of the fascist Zionist regime ruling in Tel Aviv, on the South African people. Nay, what is being offered is worse and more bitter than this. It is the slavery of sharing rules and the theatricals of fake elections; the slavery of the joint rule, the condominium.

All of these parties have forgotten or pretend to forget that this people has unswervingly and without any sign of reluctance or hesitation decided to continue their revolution and the uprising, the uprising that will not stop. This uprising will continue, acording to its sucessive, specific, and well-planned phases, one phase after another and through distinguished qualitative leaps until the hateful Zionist occupation is ended. This blessed Palestinian land will remain a sanctuary for our masses and our revolutionaries in all areas in this land, in the cities, camps, and villages and in the universities, schools, and institutions.

Leaders, cadres, masses, children, women, men, workers, students, peasants, merchants, officials, professional men, property owners, craftsmen, school teachers and university educated individulas will take their turn carrying the banner. The people, all the people with all of their strata and forces and through their organizations and institutions, are standing in complete union in the committees, the institutions, the frameworks, and the cells behind their solid leadership displaying strength,

genuineness, awareness, and alertness inside and outside the occupied Arab territories to express the unity of our people, the unity of our masses, the unity of our cause, the unity of our objectives, and the unity of our battles, which should lead us to the realization of the higher objective of seeing Palestine liberated and of seeing Jerusalem, the capital of our free and independent state, liberated.

Steadfast brothers, you who are at your posts,the sacred Palestinian stone has reawakened the world's conscience and you have chosen slingshots to deal blows against the enemies of life. Despite the viciousness of the Zionist enemy and its ferocity and crimes, this Palestinian steadfastness and heroism have had their impact on the world at large and have clearly stigmatized international public opinion. An ever-increasing number of friends of our Palestinian people who are part of this international public opinion are strongly supporting our people's just struggle, our equitable cause, and our inalienable national rights.

Beloved brothers, our friends in the socialist countries, headed by the friendly Soviet Union, support us. The friendly PRC also supports us. Our friends in the Islamic countries, the African countries, and the friendly nonaligned countries support us firmly and forcefully.

Even many European countries that have been shaken by what is currently taking place in our occupied territories against our children, women, and people support us. All of the free and honest forces in the world, including the Israeli democratic forces, the Israeli peace-loving forces, and the Jewish forces which have rejected the iron-fist policy and have condemned Israeli crimes, also support us. Our people will never forget the principled and noble stands these friends, brothers, and free men in the world have adopted. We will cherish them in our heart and conscience.

Beloved brothers and comrades of the same march and struggle and our hero revolutionaries, the battle is fierce and arduous. The challenge is a great and a serious one. At this historic turning point, this battle and this challenge map the future course and prospects with all that this entails in terms of an inevitable change in the political map of the entire region. Beloved ones, these momentous national responsibilities rest on our people's shoulders.

By God, you are worthy of assuming them. You can assume these responsibilities, O revolutionaries in and outside the occupied homeland. By God, you are worthy of assuming them, O people of martyrdom and martyrs, O people of heroic feats and achievements.

Victory is near. We see it with our own eyes and we feel it in our hearts. How not so while the glad tidings of victory have emerged in the horizon in the year of good omens, in the year of hope, God made it but a message of hope for you, and assurance to your hearts: in any case there is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]

Beloved ones, victory is forged by those who are faithful and resolute. Through their firmness, steadfastness, and challenge we see that blood has overpowered the sword. Palestinian blood has overpowered the Zionist sword. Palestinian blood has triumphed in one of the most glorious epics of this age and in one of the most glorious miracles of steadfastness and loftiness in contemporary times and in this barren Arab era.

God bless our people and faithful masses who are starting their 4th month in the overwheling popular uprising. This uprising is continuing on the path of pride and victory until the occupation is removed and the sun of freedom is risen.

This uprising will continue to echo the glorious Palestinian revolt of 1936-1939 and the 6-month strike during this revolution. Our people's revolts have been continuing since the Balfour Declaration. There is clear harmony between the fighter and citizen through a great relationship and connection. One generation hands the banner to the next and our heroes are rushing with great enthusiasm to record epics of heroism and sacrifice. They are creating this cohesion among this people who are making sacrifices of their sons on the path of victory and liberation.

How can this resistance and steadfastness stop when the camps of Sabra, Shatila, Al-Burj, Al-Rashidiyah, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah are forming a model of the renewed Palestinian strength and steadfastness in 3 years of siege, confrontation, killing, destruction, and starvation? These camps withstood all hardships and remained proud, clinging to life with the aim of realizing victory for the people and their cause. They were exactly like our heroes in the battles of Al-Qastal, Al-Shajarah, Al-Barwah, Safad, Bab al-Wad, Al-Shaykh Jarrah, Al-Falujah, Kfar 'Asyun, Bi'r al-Sab, and all our immortal battles.

O my beloved, proceed with God's help [several words indistinct] like faithful, sincere citizens. Muster your strength and renew your determination. This is a battle of wills, patience, and perseverance. Victory will follow an hour's patience. It will come. They see it very far but we see it very near. We are truthful. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

O my beloved people in the homeland, O our new generals who have recorded victory for our people, O my sons who filled the homeland with heroism, O men of the homeland who taught children that the homeland cannot be bought or sold but for which we sacrifice our lives, O women of our country and the mothers of our homeland who spray the soil with the scent of the land and offer their dearest as sacrifices, O our detained men and

women in the enemy prisons who are creating revolutionary schools to provide men for the continuous revolution, O our wounded who are wearing medals of glory.

You are blessed because you stand as giants over our good land, turning it into a fire burning the enemy but which does not burn away. You are blessed because you are protecting the holy places with your hearts and souls. You are blessed because you are proudly proceeding on the Via Dolorosa, watering the soil of the homeland with your chaste blood so freedom and life might grow and hope, peace, and prosperity might begin.

You are blessed because you are bringing victory closer. Blessed are the eyes of the children, the beloved of God, who are opening vistas of hope. Blessed are the martyrs who are immortal in the final abode. Blessed are their souls in heaven because they sacrificed themselves for the most sacred and most noble aim.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods, for theirs in return is the garden of paradise, and slay and are slain: A promise binding on him in truth, through the law, the gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenent than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme. [Koranic verses]

Your brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

### PLO's 'Arafat To Meet King Husayn in Amman

*LD100917 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has affirmed that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received an official invitation from the Jordanian king to visit Amman for consultations on the latest developments in the Middle East. He has also said the date of this visit is to be fixed later.

### Al-Wazir Urges Stand 'To Confront' U.S. Plan

*JN092047 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has said the PLO will contact Arab countries to reach a unified Arab stand and formulate a central plan for confronting the U.S. settlement plan.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, Brother Abu Jihad said the PLO will submit definite ideas at the forthcoming Arab summit to confront the U.S. plan which seeks seeks to bypass Palestinian national rights and does not go beyond the framework of the autonomy plan, which is similar to the ideas contained in the Camp David accords.

Brother Abu Jihad said the tumultuous popular uprising in occupied Palestine has broken the deadlock that was imposed by the same U.S. Administration which always seeks to avoid facing the basic facts and realities of the conflict in the region. He said the popular uprising has reawakened the world's conscience and has made many international parties put pressure on this policy which exacerbated the conflict in the region.

Concluding his statement, Brother Abu Jihad said the U.S. Administration must understand that the Palestinian uprising will escalate, will not stop in one way or the other, and its impact will spread outside the occupied homeland. Therefore, the U.S. Administration must come to understand these realities and should realize it is necessary to tackle the cause not by bypassing the Palestinian people, but by dealing with them through the PLO, their representative.

### PFLP's Habash on Relations With Syria

*JN100921 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Mar (WAKH)—A senior Palestinian official has asserted that positive developments have actually taken place within the framework of Syrian-Palestinian relations. Such developments may soon lead to reconciliation between the two parties, he added.

PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash told the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, issued in Abu Dhabi today, that contacts between the Syrian and Palestinian sides have been held at various levels, foremost being the meeting held in Tunis between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a Palestinian delegation.

Habash said this meeting was cordial and very positive. He pointed out that the two sides agreed to hold further meetings to end their estrangement. He added that the ongoing political developments in the region will contribute to the creation of an appropriate atmosphere to restore the Syrian-Palestinian alliance as before to confront the U.S. schemes in the region, which aim to abort the Palestinian uprising.

### Mahmud 'Abbas on U.S. Moves, USSR, Syria

*JN091334 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Mar 88 p 3*

[Text] Cyprus—AL-ITTIHAD—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, has told AL-ITTIHAD that the PLO is currently holding intensive contacts with the Soviet Union on the uprising in the occupied territories and the effect of U.S. political moves in the region.

Abu Mazin added that Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming visit to Moscow will center on this point, as there is a joint PLO-Soviet position on the U.S. initiative. The two sides reject the initiative because it is aimed at ending the uprising and saving Israel from a most important and real crisis.

Abu Mazin also ruled out any current plan for a Fatah Central Committee delegation to leave for Damascus, adding there are continued contacts between the PLO and Syria.

### Further on Bus Operation in Southern Israel

*JN091657 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1632 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Statement by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command—date not given]

[Text] Relying on God, believing in our people's right to struggle against the Zionist enemy which all international laws and conventions have recognized, implementing the resolutions of our national councils and the Higher Military Council on the escalation of military operations against vital and military targets of the Zionist enemy, and avenging the blood of our martyrs which was shed [words indistinct] so that the revolution and the uprising of our people and [word indistinct] would continue, a special group from the unit of the three martyrs who were assassinated by Israeli intelligence in Limassol moved at dawn yesterday, 7 March 1988, toward the assigned target, the Dimona nuclear area, after a thorough surveillance operation.

Members of the unit were able to pass through all Zionist security precautions and arrive at an area only [words indistinct] from the nuclear plant where they ambushed and captured a bus transporting nuclear scientists who work at the Dimona nuclear plant. The bus was carrying a large number of scientists.

At 0730, our heroes presented their conditions for ending the operation peacefully [words indistinct] which rushed to the area. The conditions were: the release of all Palestinian prisoners in the prisons of the Zionist enemy and the involvement of the International Red Cross and other international bodies to end the negotiations.

However, the treacherous Zionist enemy and its terrorist leaders—the minister of war, the chief of staff, and the commander of the southern region—who came to the scene were preparing to storm the bus. The Zionist special forces attacked the bus at 1025 using rockets and machineguns under the supervision and planning of the three terrorists.

Our three fighters fought like heroes confronting this treacherous Zionist attack. They managed to inflict scores of casualities among the Zionist forces in a 10-minute nonstop battle. Our three heroes fell martyrs during the battle. Several Zionist nuclear scientists were killed or wounded by the bullets of the Zionist forces inside the bus.

This splendid heroic operation, and the arrival of our heroes at the most vital area [words indistinct] around which the enemy enforced very tight security measures and the largest early-warning network, underlines the comprehensiveness of our revolution and the renewed capability of our revolutionaries to continue the fight against the Zionist enemy despite all obstacles. It underlines the ability to inflict the heaviest casualities on the enemy's military and strategic targets.

The operation also emphasizes that the struggling and faithful Palestinian gun, which is closely bound to the steadfastness of our masses, the stones of our children, the sacrifices of our martyrs, the bleeding of our wounded, and the patience of our detainees, is the only guarantee to regain our legitimate right to self-determination and to the establishment of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Glory and immortality to our pure martyrs. Revolution until victory! [Signed] The Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command

## South Asian Regional Affairs

### Cordovez Comments on Progress of Geneva Talks

*BK100253 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the United Nations envoy on Afghanistan, has said that work is in progress to prepare the final draft of the Geneva agreement, but much remains to be done.

He told newsmen yesterday that no outcome is expected before Monday [14 March]. Cordovez pointed out that the finalization of such documents requires detailed diplomatic discussions.

Meanwhile, talking to the newsmen in Geneva, the Kabul regime's foreign minister, 'Abdul Wakil, has said the possibility of the continuation of the Geneva negotiations beyond 15 March cannot be ruled out.

The Soviet leader, Gorbachev, has announced that if an agreement is reached at Geneva by 15 March, the Soviet Union will begin withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan in May.

## Algeria

### Bendjedid on Tunisia, Domestic, Foreign Policy

*PM081432 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Mar 88 p 3*

["Text" of interview with President Chadli Bendjedid by TAP—date, place not given]

[Text] [TAP] Tunisian-Algerian relations have been consolidated since the events of 7 November in Tunisia. Sir, how do you view prospects for these relations on the eve of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to Algeria—his first foreign visit?

[Bendjedid] There are rich and strong ties between Tunisia and Algeria which stem from a common history and the requirements of good-neighborly relations. These relations are, therefore, part of a natural, historical context.

I visited Tunisia last January and met with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and I think I can say that Algerian-Tunisian bilateral relations are excellent. Our joint approach is methodical and thorough—what I mean is that we are building on firm ground, that every stone we add to the edifice of cooperation, which we have built for the good of our two fraternal peoples, is bound to be laid at the right time and in the right place.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will soon be with us in Algeria, and I am convinced that we will add new stones to the edifice of joint Algerian-Tunisian action on that occasion.

[TAP] Tunisian-Algerian cooperation has developed and diversified over recent years. What potential for development do you think this cooperation has in view of the effects of the crisis affecting these two countries, and could it have a three-sided dimension?

[Bendjedid] The achievements in the qualitative development of Algerian-Tunisian cooperation are a source of pride here in Algeria and in Tunisia. There is no doubt about that.

Of course, Algerian-Tunisian relations have specific characteristics, but, knowing that these relations obey the rationale of Greater Maghreb building, we must constantly ask whether we have shown as much imagination as possible in achieving what we want, in identifying as closely as possible the appropriate spheres for this, and in the optimum mobilization of all available means of attaining this noble objective.

Our joint awareness of the need to follow the realism which now forms the basis of relations between Algeria and Tunisia determines our common approach, which is at present characterized by confidence and serenity, despite the negative effects of the international economic crisis from which all countries, particularly the developing countries, have suffered.

With regard to the possibility of involving a third country in bilateral cooperation, I would say that priority will be given to the countries of the Arab Maghreb.

The Greater Maghreb alone provides an exemplary framework for our joint action through all the possibilities it offers. Having said that, if by a three-sided dimension you mean the existence of contributions complementing Algerian-Tunisian joint action and beneficial to the process of building the Greater Arab Maghreb, such contributions are welcome.

[TAP] Sir, this year our countries celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord. What are the achievements of this treaty and what future action will be taken?

[Bendjedid] The Treaty of Fraternity and Concord has undoubtedly played a fundamental role in improving the regional political climate. This treaty has also given the Greater Arab Maghreb a framework and political methods which enable our countries to live in an atmosphere of mutual respect, egalitarian cooperation, consultation and coordination for the good of all peoples in the region. The achievements of the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord bear witness to the correctness of its rationale.

Algeria, whose action is inspired by this treaty, has shown the correctness of its progressive approach and, together with the fraternal countries involved, has undertaken to establish the right conditions for strengthening and expanding this decisive phase and opening up new horizons for common action through calm and responsible joint thinking.

It is in this framework that the countries directly concerned by the spirit of this treaty are now working to give political consultation the appropriate frameworks and mechanisms, and to give economic cooperation the sound bases and objectives which will enable these countries to achieve the stage of regional economic integration in the near future. Indeed, the methodical organization of the framework for political consultation and coordination, and the exploitation of complementarity with a view to Maghreb economic integration, are clearly necessary in the present age of big regional units.

The Treaty of Fraternity and Concord is not a fixed and limited framework. It is a framework which is open to all the countries of the Greater Arab Maghreb. However, the persistence of the Western Sahara conflict is still one of the objective obstacles to a united enterprise which is comprehensive in concept and is diligently implemented. Algeria hopes that a solution to this conflict will be found in the framework of international efforts through the joint good offices of the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general.

[TAP] This is the age of economic units, Mr President, what action do you think should be envisaged to encourage the creation of a homogeneous Maghreb economic unit?

[Bendjedid] We are indeed living in an age of large regional economic and political groupings. We all recognize that the Maghreb is lagging behind in this respect, despite its considerable objective advantages which will enable it to become a strong economic and political grouping one day. Our clear awareness of this situation leads us to one conclusion: that we must step up our efforts to attain this objective.

The only way of achieving this is to solve problems, overcome obstacles, and boost our imagination in establishing the best ways of exploiting all the means at our disposal to make the Greater Arab Maghreb a great economic and political entity in the region.

[TAP] Algeria is preparing for the Sixth FLN Congress. Mr President, what is the record of and prospects for the development action taken by Algeria, notably since the enrichment of the National Charter?

[Bendjedid] The Sixth FLN Congress is an ordinary congress, whose work will be devoted to assessing all the achievement since the fifth congress, in light of the enrichment of the National Charter and the economic reforms relating to the autonomy of enterprises and the reorganization of the agricultural sector. I can say, therefore, that the reorganization of our economy—our main objective—has been successfully achieved.

The adjustments and adaptations have covered all aspects of economic and social policy, be it industry, agriculture, or the way in which the financial or trade institutions work, thus leading to a new distribution of tasks and radically changing the duties of administrative departments, economic financial, and commercial enterprises, and planning, regulation, and control bodies.

In general, I can say we have succeeded in ensuring that our country lives within its means, which satisfy our essential development aims. We have been able to do this through the optimum mobilization of all national, human, and material resources in such a way that the main balance of the national economy has been respected and safeguarded. Ultimately, that presupposed a return to the values of effort, savings, and stringency—in a word, a healthy management of our economy.

[TAP] Algeria plays an important role on the international scene, particularly in regional affairs and among the nonaligned countries. What are the fundamental principles which guide Algeria's foreign policy in this sphere?

[Bendjedid] The traditional principles which form the basis of Algeria's foreign policy are good-neighborly relations, noninterference in other countries' affairs, respect for the right of peoples to freely choose their political systems, solving conflicts by negotiation, the rejection of foreign bases, the implementation of a fruitful and egalitarian cooperation policy, and support for national liberation struggles in the world, notably that of the Palestinian people and the struggle against apartheid.

These principles prompt Algeria, which is working constantly to overcome disagreements among brothers, to work for stability in the Arab Maghreb region. The building of the Greater Arab Maghreb is one of Algeria's fundamental options and an aspiration rooted in the Algerian people's collective consciousness.

This objective mobilizes the people's efforts and fuels their consultations with the Arab Maghreb's political leaderships. That is why Algeria hopes one day to see the Arab Maghreb form a stable, strong, and nonaligned grouping which will make our united countries excellent partners—partners with influence in the region and the world.

With regard to the Nonaligned Movement, Algeria's principles are the same as the ones which this movement originally adopted, namely solidarity with peoples struggling for their national liberation, and effective participation in the international task of establishing a system of collective security. In this connection, Algeria is cooperating with international and regional organizations for the maintenance of peace and security in the world.

Similarly, Algeria is expressing a constant demand—the demand for a just reorganization of the structures of international economic relations which satisfies the developing world's legitimate ambition to have its voice heard and to play an active part in the world economy.

## Egypt

### Jordan's King Husayn To Visit Cairo 11 Mar

*NC101210 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan will visit Cairo tomorrow. MENA has learned that during his visit, which will last several hours, the Jordanian monarch will hold intensive talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly concerning U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' recent visit to the region.

The talks will also deal with the latest developments in the Gulf war in light of the serious escalation of the war of the cities and King Husayn's current Arab tour.

**Three Libyan MiG's Leave for Libya 9 Mar**
*NC092035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)—Three of the four Libyan MiG-23's took off today with their Libyan pilots. The four aircraft had landed on an Egyptian airbase on 1 March.

A responsible source has stated that the fourth aircraft is still being examined by Libyan technicians and will take off when the work is completed.

It should be recalled that the four Libyan aircraft and their crews were scheduled to depart for Libya yesterday.

However, the take-off was postponed until today due to bad weather conditions, which prevented the transport of the crews to the airbase where the aircraft were kept.

**Mubarak on 'Revolution,' Foreign Policy**
*NC092055 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak paid a visit to Alexandria this afternoon and attended an expanded meeting at the governorate headquarters. Present at the meeting were the prime minister, a number of Cabinet ministers, People's Assembly and Consultative Council members, members of the local council, and the governorate's public and executive leaders.

After the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the president had expressed satisfaction with the private sector's achievements, some of which he saw during his visit to Alexandria this morning, adding that the private sector is as important as the public one. [passage omitted]

Regarding Egypt's foreign policy, Al-Sharif cited the president as saying: Our foreign policy is aimed at serving our domestic issues. Our relations with other countries help our economic issues and development.

Al-Sharif said the president referred to the ongoing talks with the IMF and other economic bodies, noting that Egypt has its own policy on economic reform, which is consistent with its interests and the endurance of its people.

President Muabrak, the information minister said, commented on reports about the organization calling itself Egypt's Revolution, saying: I am with the law. We are living in a state that is governed by law and institutions, and that places the public's interest above all other considerations. No individual, no matter who it is, has the right to impose his will on the people.

With regard to Egypt's role in the Arab domain, President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt has not and will not hesitate in its commitments to Arab and fateful causes. He said Egypt's power, stability, and security are a safety valve for the Arab nation and the region as a whole.

Responding to reports that Egypt is sending military forces to the Gulf states for a few billion [not further specified], the president asserted that Egypt has no Armed Forces outside its territory. He said: We are not mercenaries. We are a nation that has its values, believes in its Arab responsibilities, consults and coordinates with its brothers, and places its expertise at their service.

Concluding his statement, the president affirmed that the Palestinian uprising is a warning and that all peace-loving countries and the concerned parties should realize this fact.

**'Revolution' Leader Interviewed in Prison**
*JN091618 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 7 Mar 88 p 25*

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] The world has heard a lot about the man called Mahmud Nur al-Din, who carried out a number of killing operations against Israeli and U.S. intelligence men in Egypt. He is the leader of the "Egypt's Revolution" Organization. How does Mahmud Nur al-Din think? What is his response to the bill of indictment? What is the position of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir in this case? We put a number of questions to Mahmud Nur al-Din in Mazra'at Turrah prison. Mahmud said many things.

Mahmud Nur al-Din emerged as the leader and founder of the "Egypt's Revolution" Organization. Many statements were made about Mahmud. Some of these statements were fair, others were not. Many media campaigns have been organized to fight him while he is behind bars. Many writers attempted to encroach on Nur al-Din and his patriotism, but all attempts were doomed to failure. The case is clear.

No Egyptian was hurt in the "Egypt's Revolution" operations. The bullets were aimed at Mosad and CIA agents. There was no suspicion about a contact or an attempt to topple the ruling regime in the country. An organization was formed to fight those who spy on Egypt, its people, and its security.

[Paris-based] KUL AL'ARAB tried to interview Mahmud Nur al-Din when the case was revealed, but to no avail. But, ways are many. Through correspondence, the leader of the "Egypt's Revolution" organization answered KUL AL-'ARAB's questions from his prison.

[Question] Did you expect the bill of indictment to call for your execution, along with the others who are affiliated with the "Egypt's Revolution"?

[Nur al-Din] In fact, we did not commit any crime for which we deserve to be put in prison for a single day. We did not plan any coup attempt in the country. In the statements we issued, in fact, we expressed our appreciation for President Mubarak personally. We carried out all these operations for the sake of Egypt and to support President Mubarak in resisting pressures. We know full

well that pressures are being applied to Egypt to submit to a normalization process and to accept Israeli-U.S. conditions. We communicated with nobody. Praise be to God, the bill of indictment explained our stand on these two serious points.

We are not hostile to the Egyptian leadership. We are proud that we are hostile to Zionism, the U.S. policy, and the CIA men. Because of this, and because we have information affirming that Mosad and CIA elements are playing terrorist and espionage games in Egypt, we declared armed struggle against them and fired our bullets at them. This is an honor for all Egyptians.

[Question] How were you certain that you shot intelligence elements?

[Nur al-Din] I want to ask you: Do you have names of those whom we shot who are not spies? If the Americans whom we shot, and it was said that they are experts in sewage projects, were not intelligence men, why were they armed? Why did they fire at us and hit one of us? Before shooting at them, we were certain of their identity and of the size of the crimes perpetrated against Egypt and the entire Arab nation.

[Question] Is it correct that you knew the Israeli Albert Atrakche before you killed him?

[Nur al-Din] My story about Atrakche is a long one. It goes back to London. He was in charge of the Mosad in England and in some West European countries. He sent a letter bomb to the Egyptian diplomat Fikri al-'Azzazi in 1972 after the assassination of the agricultural adviser at the Israeli Embassy in London. The letter came from a British Bank which Fikri al-'Azzazi had no dealings with at all. I was suspicious about the matter. The letter was a trick. There was a bomb in the letter and I defused it at once.

While we were pursuing Atrakche in the Al-Ma'adi area, he looked into the mirror before him and I realized that he recognized me well. He was shouting: Nur al-Din, Mahmud Nur al-Din. I did not give him time. I killed him and emptied our bullets on him. We took revenge on him because he planned many plots against us abroad. When we knew that he was in Egypt, we realized that he came to Egypt to continue his terrorist and espionage mission in the country. Therefore, we decided to eliminate him.

[Question] Did you return to Egypt in 1984 to found the organization? You spent many years in London and many stories were told about your return.

[Nur al-Din] Certainly I waited a long time before I returned to Cairo. Believe me, the homeland is the most precious thing to any person. I suffered a great deal while I was far away from my homeland. My longing for Egypt increased each day. Therefore, I asked Egyptian Ambassador Hasan Abu Saldah to present the matter to President Mubarak during his stopover in London from the United States in 1983.

President Mubarak agreed to my return to Egypt. At the beginning, I intended to issue a magazine other than "23 YULYU" which was no longer published. However, this matter did not succeed for many reasons.

When I returned to Egypt I was deeply shocked by the Israeli presence. I saw the Israeli Embassy on Egypt's land and Israelis there under the name of tourists, but they were not so. I was also provoked by the U.S. presence.

There were strong pressures on Egypt at that time to impose U.S. and Israel terms. Therefore, I thought of forming the "Egypt's Revolution" Organization. We started as four persons: Myself, my brother Ahmad 'Isam, Colonel Muhyi 'Adli, and Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad 'Ali. We started our operations against the Israelis first, then the Americans. We did not kill any Egyptian. We retreated from carrying out many operations because of the presence of Egyptians at the site.

We almost killed the Israeli ambassador, but we withdrew because we knew his driver was an Egyptian. We almost carried out a big operation against the most professional U.S. intelligence men and a number of U.S. pilots from the Rapid Deployment Force. We prepared the plan. We brought vehicles and clothes for the organization elements so that they would appear to be construction workers at the building housing the Americans in Misr al-Jadidah. We retreated at the last moment, because an Egyptian widow was always present in one of the booths nearby.

[Qestion] When did you start thinking of working against the Americans?

[Nur al-Din] After the hijacking of the Egyptian plane. We felt that Egypt's dignity had been encroached upon. The Americans hijacked a plane carrying four Palestinians with an Egyptian crew. Hence, we thought of aiming our bullets at the Americans.

[Question] Exactly what is Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's role in all this?

[Nur al-Din] Our organization is Nasirite. It is based on the principles of the July Revolution, although it has its own clear view of the issue of democracy. We believed that the July Revolution should have established a sound democratic life. As in any other revolutionary movement, there were obstacles along the road. Despite this, we adopt the Nasirite ideology as a political framework for our movement. We were not hostile to the Mubarak regime. We believed that what we did was to support Mubarak in resisting pressures, not to embarrass him.

With regard to Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's role, Khalid is an old friend since the London days, when his brother 'Abd al-Hamid was a second secretary at the Egyptian Embassy in London. I am surprised how this friendship is considered a crime. There is a desperate attempt to involve Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir in this case. Why? I do not know.

They have no evidence against Khalid. The only evidence they have is my brother 'Isam's statement to the U.S. Embassy. 'Isam's statement is doubted from the beginning. He does not know much about the organization. I believe that the Americans dictated to him many false and baseless facts.

[Question] What is your comment on the stands of the political forces in Egypt vis-a-vis the "Egypt's Revolution" Organization?

[Nur al-Din] The matter needs no comment. We trust the Egyptian people and their vanguards. We know that their hostility to Zionism is historical, it cannot be forgotten. Therefore, it is not strange to see this stand adopted by all the Egyptian popular forces on this important issue. What surprised us is the Neo-Wafd Party's stand. This party announced that our stand is objective and forgot the differences with us as Nasirites. This is a historic stand recorded in its favor as well in the favor of the other forces.

[Question] What about the stand of the Egyptian press?

[Nur al-Din] We know in advance the identity of some writers who we do not believe will stand with us or adopt a neutral stand. Regrettably, some writers have sharpened their pencils and accused us of grave charges, particularly those who are linked with Israelis by very cordial and friendly relations. Those must know that history will not forget. We will expose their false claims before the Egyptian judiciary and we are confident in its justice.

[Question] What is your response to the accusations that you were heroin addicts?

[Nur al-Din] All members of the organization are honest people. We are proud that there are with us Armed Forces officers, who have had the honor of participating in many battles. Lt Col Ahmad 'Ali was awarded the Sinai Star medal for his heroic role in the 1973 October war. Ahmad pledged to avenge his martyred colleagues. For this reason, he joined "Egypt's Revolution." Could such people be heroin addicts? We will explain all these matters in court.

[Question] When did the idea of armed struggle against Israel in Egypt emerge?

[Nur al-Din] The idea existed deep inside us. The idea exploded when I knew that the Zionist Kakh organization, led by Rabbi Kahane, sent warning messages to Egyptian writers and intellectuals, threatening to kill them if they do not stop their hostility to Israel. Here, I thought of responding to the barbaric Israeli onslaught. I wanted to tell them that here in Egypt there are men who can answer you.

## Abu Ghazalah Attends Military Exercise

*NC061933 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 6 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has stated that Egypt's manufacturing of the American M-1 tank is proceeding normally.

He said the new plant will consist of several factories which will produce M-1 tanks and armored vehicles, and also carry out main overhaul operations for M-60 tanks. He also said that part of the plant's financing will come from U.S. aid and the other part from the Armed Forces' resources.

Abu Ghazalah said that he will visit the United States in the second half of March, after the visit to Egypt by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. During his stay in Washington he will discuss aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

Abu Ghazalah made these statements today after attending the last stage of a tactical exercise carried out by the 3d Field Army in the Jidy Pass area in Sinai. The exercise was codenamed "Destruction 2" [Tadmir 2].

Abu Ghazalah said that the Chaparral air defense missiles have arrived in Egypt, and training has begun on their use. Thus, the training and armaments plan for the Armed Forces is proceeding at its best.

Abu Ghazalah declared that there is no relation between the training exercise and any events in the region. He said Egypt carries out its military exercises and maneuvers according to a training schedule and not as a result of relations or political stands.

Abu Ghazalah praised the excellent performance of the division and the units taking part in the exercise in spite of difficult weather conditions. He asserted that fighting in mountainous regions is one of the most difficult kinds of fighting and needs close cooperation between the various ground and air forces taking part in it.

He urged men of the 3d Field Army to keep up their excellent perfomrance so that they will always be worthy of their homeland and Arab nation. He stressed that our Armed Forces are the shield of Egypt and the Arab nation.

Answering a question on Iraq's use of long-range surface-to-surface missiles in its war against Iran and whether these missiles will decide the battle, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: There is no doubt that these missiles have a great effect, as they can reach deep inside Iranian territory to a distance of more than 600 kms, while the Iraqi MiG-21 and MiG-23 jets cannot penetrate to such a distance.

He said, however, that there is no weapon that can alone decide any battle. All the weapons are used together in the fighting on the front, in addition to the long-range missiles. Deciding the fate of a battle depends on the ability of one side to use all its weapons against the other side.

The last stage of the tactical exercise "Destruction 2," which took place in the Jidy Pass area on the eastern approaches of the mountainous wall in Sinai, was attended by Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shanaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces; Major General 'Adil al-Qadi, commander of the 3d Field Army; Tahsin Shanan, the governor of Suez; a number of party leaders; members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council; newspapers' chief editors; and senior Army commanders.

The last stage of the exercise involved the storming of a mountain pass and defeating and annihilating the enemy forces that had earlier taken control of the pass. This stage involves the most complicated and most difficult form of fighting as it requires high-level training on the part of the participating forces, which include infantry, tanks, artillery, commandos, and paratroopers. All this takes place while there are aerial engagements, air defense activities, and electronic control operations to prevent the enemy from interfering electronically.

The tactical exercise, in which live ammunition was used, consisted of three stages. The first stage involved intercepting the enemy forces, which were able to penetrate the security points and occupy the pass. The second stage involved the destruction of the enemy forces. The last stage involved completing the destruction of the enemy forces and restoring the situation as it was before, in cooperation with the Air Force.

## 69 'Extremist' Students Arrested in Asyut

*NC081510 Cairo MENA in English 1435 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, March 8 (MENA)—MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) reporter learned that 69 students belonging to extremist Moslem jama'ah (Islamic groups) were arrested during riots which took place at Asyut University last evening (Tuesday). Three pieces of arms were seized.

Conditions have returned to normal and studies were resumed today in all faculties. Four persons, including an officer and one guard of the university guards and two students, were injured, MENA reporter said.

Members of extremist jama'ah had gathered last evening in front of the main gate of the sport stadium where an annual ceremony of artistic troupes from the various faculties was to be held.

Members of jama'ah produced knives and iron bars. They stormed the hall, assaulted members of the artistic troupes and smashed their musical instruments.

Security forces evacuated members of the artistic troupes through windows by using fire ladders.

When shots were fired from inside the hall, special forces stormed the hall and arrested members of the extremist jama'ah and confiscated the weapons they carried.

## 15 Day Sentences Given

*NC090910 Cairo MENA in English 1005 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, March 9 (MENA)—The state security prosecution today ruled that the 69 defendants, who have stormed the Asyut stadium hall, be kept in custody for fifteen days on charges of possessing unlicensed firearms and ammunition, damaging university property and beating up security men.

The defendants stormed on March 7 the Asyut stadium hall to prevent the holding of an annual musical reception.

Security forces intervened and nabbed the attackers. The party was held later as planned.

## Trial of 'Religious Extremists' To Begin 2 Apr

*NC071922 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—The state security's higher emergency criminal court will begin on 2 April a trial of 33 religious extremists charged with assassination attempts against Major General Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, former deputy prime minister and minister of interior; Hasan Abu Basha, former interior minister; and Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the board of directors of Dar al-Hilal Establishment.

The state security's higher prosecution office had earlier referred the defendants to the court, accusing them of several crimes, including the founding, organizing, and administering of a paramilitary and illegal party organization.

They formed a secret group that renounces society [takfir al-mujtama'] and opposes the basic principles of the regime. It instigates hatred and contempt for such principles and allows the assassinations of a number of present and former top state officials, some public figures, and journalists.

The prosecution also accused them of resisting public authorities, theft, and possession of non-licensed arms.

The trial will be held in a special hall that has been prepared at the exhibition ground at Nasr city.

### Liberal Party Accepts Officials' Resignation

*PM081601 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic*
*29 Feb 88 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Acceptance of Abu Isma'il and Al-Badri Resignations"]

[Text] At its meeting last Wednesday, chaired by Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party Presidential Council decided to accept the resignations of Party Deputy Leader Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il and Party Under Secretary Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri.

Shaykh Salah verbally announced his resignation from the Liberal Party to People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, asking to be excused from speaking on behalf of the Liberal Party inside the People's Assembly.

It is well known that Shaykh Salah has not spoken in the People's Assembly since the dispute which flared up between him and Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr inside the People's Assembly last year. On that day the opposition protested the minister's approach and withdrew from the session, except for Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri, who refused to withdraw.

Last Monday Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri convened a news conference inside the People's Assembly in which he announced his resignation from the Liberal Party and his decision to form a new party called the Revival Party.

### Ghali Meets Chadian, Ethiopian Envoys

*NC081534 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 8 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)— Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with Chadian Ambassador in Cairo Joseph Gibang. They reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed a date for the next meeting of the Egyptian-Chadian joint committee. The Chadian ambassador briefed Ghali on the latest developments in the Chadian problem.

Meanwhile, Dr Ghali received today Ethiopian Ambassador in Cairo Zemen Kaspin [name as received]. They discussed bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them, as well as developments in the Middle East.

### Sudan's Al-Mirghani Ends Visit, Departs

*NC100956 Cairo MENA in English 0930 GMT*
*10 Mar 88*

[Text] Cairo, March 10 (MENA)—Leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, left here this morning for home with his delegation, winding up an official six-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Mirghani also held talks with speaker of the People's Assembly Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, Premier Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, with Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture Dr. Yusuf Wali as well as with other Egyptian officials.

### Israel's News Blackout Attempt Denounced

*JN071203 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic*
*5 Mar 88 p 7*

[Editorial: "Blackout"]

[Text] As a result of the imbroglio into which it got itself in the occupied territory, Israel wants to try to save whatever face it has left after it has been exposed to the world.

Instead of acknowledging its abominable mistakes, seeking to redress its shameful stand, and renouncing its bloody and savage tactics against civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel is seeking to impose a complete blackout on news of its actions to have the world believe there is nothing going on that deserves to be published, investigated, and questioned, at least by those with a live conscience.

The rulers of Israel, who have been swayed by arrogance and possessed by vain glory, want to delude the world into believing they are innocent, merely by drawing down the curtain over what they are doing. They want to extinguish the fire of truth with a mere stroke of a pen, and change the clear facts by a ministerial decree. They want to be alone on the scene, unseen by the rest of the world for a period of 3 months, which they believe to be sufficiently long to quell the honorable revolutionary uprising.

Their illusions have led them to believe that by doing so they can be more "sensible" than the ostrich that buries its head in the sand. Thus they are indicting themselves with historic foolishness, for the ostrich believes that as long as it is not seeing its enemies they will not see it, while by imposing a news blackout Israel believes that as long as its "adversaries" abroad do not see its actions it will be free to do what it wants while exonerating itself. Who then is the more foolish?

Astonishingly, the matter has gone so far as to be discussed by the Council of Ministers. That is, the foolishness has managed to rise through all minds up to the council of elders. While the ordinary man in any "democratic" country may condemn such an idea if it should occur to him, and hasten to completely discard it without talking to anyone about it so that he will not be harshly judged, we find that the esteemed council is quick to study and discuss the matter without caring that by merely contemplating such a measure at such a level the entire government looks absurd and becomes the subject of ridicule by everyone, including the Israelis themselves.

The fact, of course, is that the abyss of decline is bottomless, and that in their excessive arrogance the falling always imagine they are rising. History has witnessed the demise of many who were struck by the fever of invasion, occupation, and expansion, only to be eventually consumed by the same incurable disease.

Gentlemen, watch out for the coming actions, whether there is a news blackout or not, for now that thousands have had their bones broken, citizens have been burned and dropped alive from planes, nothing remains except the use of gas chambers.

### Settlement of Palestinian Question Viewed

*NC081852 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Danger Will Continue To Engulf the Middle East Until Efforts To Resolve the Palestinian Issue Begin"]

[Text] Egypt's primary emphasis, since the outbreak of the Palestinian people's uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was that this uprising is a natural outcome of the Palestinian people's despair and frustration because of the failure to reach a solution to their problem, and as a result of the continued aggression against them by the Israeli occupation authorities. This state of frustration may lead to more dangerous consequences unless action is taken to put an end to the Palestinian people's suffering.

From this point of view, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak launched his initiative, which calls for a halt to all acts of violence in the occupied territories and in the Gaza Strip. The initiative also sought measures to give these people confidence in the possibility of reaching a settlement that would recover their rights.

For this reason, Egypt initiated tremendous diplomatic efforts that resulted in the EC's declaration of support and backing for the Palestinian people and their rights. These efforts also resulted in an active U.S. move, which began with Murphy's exploratory mission a few weeks ago and with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' two visits to the capitals of the countries concerned with the Palestinian issue.

The Israeli bus incident, which resulted in the martyrdom of three Palestinian fedayeen and the killing of three Israelis, as well as injuries to more Israelis, comes as unequivocal evidence of the state of frustration and despair among the Palestinians, which prompted them to carry out this new suicide operation.

We are not here to assess this incident. However, we affirm that it is a natural result of the state of ebullition prevailing among the Palestinians and of the acts of violence and counterviolence in the towns and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We reiterate that yesterday's incident in the Negev Desert was not the first of its kind, nor will it be the last, so long as conditions in the region remain unchanged and so long as the people of Palestine continue to suffer from grievances and lack of safety. To make these people feel secure and safe, active steps are needed in this respect.

Therefore, Egypt's initiative and diplomatic activity, Jordan's political efforts, and the U.S. role, which President Mubarak has described as a basic factor to promote the peace process, can, if the intentions of the parties concerned with the issue are genuine, lead to positive results in favor of peace and a comprehensive solution.

Thus, we can say that Shultz' current tour, and the U.S. understanding of the regional situation and the dimension of the issue, as well as its influence, can boost the peace process. Together with Egypt's ideas, Shultz' visit can calm the situation in the occupied territories and can secure a suitable backdrop for achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue.

The warning bell, which Egypt has tolled several times through President Husni Mubarak, is still sounding. The danger can only be stopped by consolidating efforts and faithful attempts at a settlement, so that the region can avoid more dangers and a glimpse of hope for a solution may loom in the region.

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi Examines Role of People's Court

*LD092305 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1719 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi relayed to the General People's Congress in Ra's al-Unuf from an unidentified location; date not specified—live or recorded]

[Text] First, I did not want to intervene, because I felt satisfaction at seeing the people exercise authority in a better and stronger form than in the past.[words indistinct]

First, who told the people's conferences to put forward only legists? I heard talk about legists. Did someone tell the people's conferences to select only legists, to the extent that you excluded nonlegists? The People's Court is a political and revolutionary court. It is one of the instruments of people's power; it is to ascertain, not confirm, the authority of the law. The courts that work for the confirmation of the authority of the law are the ordinary courts. They confirm the authority of the laws vis-a-vis criminals and offenders.

The People's Court confirms the authority of the people vis-a-vis those who oppose it. The matter concerns those who harm the [word indistinct] of the people's power, which are the decision, wealth, and arms. The law here is a revolutionary law, not another law.

Second, no matter how much the legist learns, he does not learn matters that concern the task of the People's Court. The People's Court concerns the revolution and politics. It is not related to the ordinary laws understood by the graduate of the faculty of law. This does not mean that the one who graduates from the faculty of law does not enter the People's Court. No, but it does not mean that the matter is confined to him alone, either. This is clear, it is underlined; he can enter it, but it is not confined to him.

We say that the nonlegist cannot enter the People's Court, as you did in the morning when you excluded some individuals because they were not legally qualified. No, this indeed has nothing to do with ordinary laws. No matter how learned in ordinary laws, you cannot.... [sentence left incomplete] This cannot qualify you for the People's Court. You can be a revolutionary, a politician, illiterate, but revolutionarily politicized, you are more qualified for the People's Court than one who understands ordinary laws.

What I am saying is that ordinary laws [words indistinct] the murderer, premeditated killing, manslaughter, try the thief, the smuggler, personal status, marriage and divorce, etc. These matters are not considered by the People's Court. The People's Court considers cases which I, in fact, still see as necessary. Extraordinary and revolutionary courts were set up everywhere because of this need. I am, in fact, against extraordinary courts. We have made a decision to abolish the extraordinary courts. The revolutionary courts are different.

From now on, only the permanent revolutionary court will remain to try the revolutionaries, to assist the revolutionaries with regard to their movement inside the revolutionary committees only. It has nothing to do with the rest of the people. As to the revolutionary courts, which spread in order to try people in revolutionary, political, and economic cases, these are terminated as of this moment. There is still a need for the People's Court, and subsequently the People's Court is now at an inevitable stage to prevent excesses against the people.

I saw that every side is arresting people. This is wrong. Detention should take place only at the request of the public prosecution. Go and tell the police that the detention of this person is needed, in daylight, without a night or dawn raid. The man who comes to arrest him can perhaps drink tea with him; welcome, you can have dinner, lunch with him. A man to be arrested in Tripoli can say: Leave me, I have something to do in Banghazi and I will return.

If the matter is not urgent, why not? Let him go and he will come back. Tell him that you are arresting him with permission because he is wanted in such-and-such a case. His family knows and can visit him tomorrow and attend his trial, so everything is clear. The plurality of the sides arresting people: This must come to an end. The plurality of the sides banning people from travel abroad must end. I was surprised that every side has a file. This banned from travel. No, this is not a defense of those banned from travel abroad. Perhaps they should be prevented from leaving for a good reason, but the plurality of these sides.... [sentence left incomplete]

I appeal to all those who are banned from traveling to be in front of the passport office in Tripoli next Saturday, God willing, to end this matter. We did not release people from prison in order to imprison them internally. Libya should be the land of freedom, not a prison.

The People's Court first separates the cases we try on the basis of politics, ideology, revolution, anything of this nature. What I mean by ideology is when you have a case of one saying that we should destroy the mosques and pray in the open air like [word in distinct]. This is, in fact, an ideological case. To whom should we refer it? Let us assume that a man brought a tractor and destroyed one, two, three mosques, saying: My belief is that we should not have these mosques; let us pray in the open air. To which court should we refer him to prevent him from destroying the mosques? The criminal court?

Is he a thief, a killer, a smuggler? Was he involved in a car accident? Has he divorced his wife? None of these laws apply to him, so this court may not look into his case. If we try him, we must try him before another court, at the level of his action. There is also the political action. We do not refer him because of his political action to the same court that tries a killer, thief, or smuggler. A revolutionary idea, a political idea, any other idea should be considered by the People's Court.

Besides, this requires more than ordinary legal qualifications. Thus, there is a People's Court. All the people should be represented in it. Indeed, like we said, it has a farmer, a worker, a student, a civil servant, even the illiterate. If I have questions, I bring them before the people's conferences and ask them to make a law. The contravention of this law should be considered by the People's Court at this stage.

I destroyed the prison and I take the responsibility for this, but this should not remain a revolutionary law passed by Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi. When Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is not present, the prison might be filled once again. Who will then destroy it? There is no one to destroy it. This will become a law. Therefore, the People's Court sees to it that this law is observed.

I am going to propose to the people's congresses for the second time—I have already done so at people's congresses—that the death sentence be abolished in Libya. However, when this becomes law, what will be the alternative to the death sentence? Some would say that in a backward society this would lead to encouraging crime, both political and ordinary crime, since the death sentence would be abolished. However, prison, a life sentence, and such things are much more severe than a death sentence.

What would be the alternative to a death sentence when it is abolished, if a criminal commits this or that crime deserving a death sentence? What would the alternative be? One could say that the alternative would be a life sentence, for instance, but then we would loose for there to be no intervention or pardon, for instance, in sentences replacing a death sentences. When a court serves a sentence concerning a case—a case of treason, for instance—a death sentence is supposed to be passed.

Treason is punished by a death sentence all over the world, because treason is perfidious. However, when the court says there is no death sentence and the person guilty of treason is punished by a life sentence, then this must mean life in jail to the end of his days.

No one would then hope that a death sentence would be commuted for him. No way! No one would be able to say: They are going to put me in jail and release me after 5 years or 15 years, or there will be a pardon and one-quarter of the sentence will be dropped. No, no quarter would be dropped because such a case would be an alternative to a death sentence. When we say a life sentence, this must mean life, with no pardon to be hoped for.

In this jamahiriyah, this state of the masses, I want there to exist a scene of freedom, in which secret activity is prohibited. Any idea you may have, just come along to the people's congresses and deliver a speech. Any idea, whatever it may be. There cannot be a prohibition on ideas, or conceptions of things, or proposals, or whatever someone may have in his mind. Such a person should not cautious and act in secrecy. No. Any secret activity must be prohibited because secret activity is not allowed in any country of the world.

In Britain, which is considered a model of civilization and traditional democracy in Europe—but as far as we are concerned, it is a reactionary, backward state, a dictatorship—you can go to Hyde Park and say: Oh British people, come and become Muslims. That is all; they listen to you and walk away. However, if you secretly go to an Englishman and give him money or put pressure on him, or exploit him and whisper to him saying: Join Islam, do this—in other words, in their own language—they say: to push him, to push him [preceding six words in English]—I do not know how to render it exactly in Arabic; it means that you pressure somebody to join you—this would be a serious crime under their law.

They would say to you: Come, you want to preach for Islam, then do it openly, do it in Hyde Park. However, if you come in secret and whisper to somebody or put pressure on them, to push him [preceding three words in English] then this would be a crime, unacceptable to them. All these states that are considered civilized would not accept this.

Generally, secret activity must be abolished. You are free to have your ideas; but put them forward openly, there will never be a punishment for them. You would be punished if you engaged in secret activity. You would not be punished for your ideas; you would be punished for the way you acted. As I have told you, in a state like Britain you would not be punished for calling for Islam, no, but for calling to Islam in an unorthodox manner; to push him [preceding three words in English] punished for to push him [preceding three words in English]. This must be banned; that is, in the jamahiriyah, the state of the masses, secret activity must be banned.

However, this does not mean that it is forbidden to think, to look into, and to study suggestions, whatever they are. Even if you say: I want monarchy. Come to the people's congresses, and if you can convince the people to set up a monarchy, convince them. If you say: I do not want it to be an Arab state, I want it to be a Mediterranean state; if people are convinced, then make it Mediterranean. However, it is a danger if you come and say I want to make it this way, but secretly (?starting) secret cells or a secret activity or cooperate with....[sentence left incomplete]

The use of weapons must be abrogated. If you have an idea, it must be through convincing others, through people's congresses. To use weapons in order to impose these ideas, this is forbidden. Cooperation from abroad, with anyone abroad, even with a Libyan staying abroad, is considered cooperation with the enemy, with the opposing front. We are in one front, and he is in the opposing front, even if he is your brother, as long as he has left this front and gone to another front. These are two armies facing each other, the army of this nation and the army of the colonialist nations that are against it, from Zionism to imperialism. It is a crime for the one inside to cooperate with him.

All this is treason, and there must be laws that deal with it. This People's Court sees that these laws are respected. The one who commits treason must not be brought before an ordinary court. The exception to this is in the future, when the people's power and the jamahiriyah are affirmed, and when perhaps the foreign confrontations lessen and the laws become sophisticated. It is possible that in the future the People's Court will disappear and the ordinary courts will become sufficient for this action.

Thus, we have things before us that we have to regulate by law in the people's congresses. The People's Court will see that these laws are respected, because I wish that no one will go to prison again, neither one of the people I freed nor any new person.

This does not mean that those I freed are innocent. I know that there are effectively among them some who are innocent; that is, they get somebody who has committed a crime who is effectively convicted. However, about two or three were brough by confusion. This is the case of the one who had at the time a passenger in his car, the one who (?signalled to him) had lunch or dinner with

somebody, or is a relative of his. There is effectively a margin for transgression. Consequently, there are some people who were in prison, even among those who were sentenced to death, who are innocent. They came out of prison and said: We are innocent. There are some of them who said: Forgive me.

Some of them said: I swear by God I did not betray you, I did not betray you. Effectively these two aforementioned groups are right. However, there are some people who are effectively convicted, sentenced to death, to life imprisonment. I freed them. This is a pardon. There are, furthermore, people who deserve to be pardoned because they are innocent. We want this to be made according to the law, so that it will not be repeated. That is to say we do not want to demolish the jails only to find them full again. God forbid. This should be made according to the law. That is it entirely; the people shall put their stamp to it—their fingerprints on this law in full. Underground work is banned; the use of arms is banned; working with foreign agents is banned. All this is treason, punishable by death. You may abolish the death penalty.

What is the alternative to the death penalty? Life imprisonment, for example. If a person is convicted of treason because he carried out underground action, or used arms, or dealt with agents abroad, then his punishment is life imprisonment—life imprisonment here means imprisonment for life. Nobody, not even his family, would then expect him to ever be released from prison.

The People's Court should look after this issue, as it is possible that a new law may be promulgated by any one of us or by the people's congresses. Someone might challenge this by saying that this criminal court is composed of people who do not understand this matter and who have no political awareness. It is actually quite possible that a person who serves in this court may say: I do not understand politics; I am solely a lawyer who understands what crime this is. People may say that this person lacks any revolutionary legal understanding.

True, he may not have revolutionary legal understanding, and they may add that he did not know what verdict to pass—he only knows how to pass sentence on a thief, or on a murderer or smuggler, or on a person who has divorced his wife, or on a wife who has divorced her husband, etc. However, to say that these cases should be heard before a revolutionary court, [passage indistinct], before a four-man appeals court, no, there is no need for this. The People's Court should be enough. The letter is set up by the people in order to look into such cases.

If somebody [words indistinct], there are people in all countries of the world who want to go out, still is forbidden [words indistinct]. For example, a person has a case to be heard by the personnel statutes court. His wife and children have taken him to court, but he does not want to go there; he leaves the country. The Personnel Statutes Court should say that that person should not depart, so as not to leave his wife waiting. Therefore, he should not depart until the court passes its opinion in this case.

However, because his hindrance from departing is a matter that is related to his freedom of movement, [words indistinct] the People's Court should be the one that can say this person is not allowed to depart, as travelling abroad is a matter relevant to the Libyan citizen's right to his freedom to go out. Why can he not do so? He cannot do so because he first has to divorce his wife, or he has to pay a fine. All these things fall under the competence of the magistrates court, the court of personnel statues.

His traveling outside the Jamahiriyah, however, is a matter that is relevent to freedom and his sacred right, which should be guaranteed. The People's Court is the only court that should decide in this case and say: This person is not allowed to go out. The People's Court might, moreover, before deciding, ascertain why such a person should not be allowed to go out, as travelling abroad is matter relevent to Libyan citizens' right to travel abroad. This was the cry of the revolution and the proclamation of the people's power.

Thus, the People's Court should ascertain why this person's sacred right is curtailed. The court of personnel statutes would furnish it with the reasons as to why he should not travel abroad, because of his wife's case against him, because he has yet to pay a fine, and because he might stay abroad 2 or 3 years and leave his wife's divorce suit against him waiting for that period. Well, he should resolve his case before the court and then travel abroad.

The People's Court should, as a general rule, look into the cases of people who are banned from travelling abroad. The People's Court should not really look into ordinary cases [words indistinct], but to look into such cases. This year, and during the forthcoming people's congresses to be held at the end of this year, God willing, we are going to put before the People's Congress democratic laws that would consolidate and bolster freedom as well as reaffirm the will of the people, the free and the sovereign people.

Citizens should be free; that is, they should be masters, which means people should master themselves. The People's Court should be one of the instruments of the people's power. After all, it is concerned with things that every Libyan citizen should enjoy in the fields of politics and freedom, and not offenses and personal cases dealt with by ordinary courts. Consequently, this court is not restricted to law graduates. No, law students should not be prevented from being members of the court, but positions on the court should not be limited exclusively to them.

Generally speaking, I see that things are proceeding on a sound, serious, and confident basis; that is, the congress is on a successful path. I regret the fact that I was forced to intervene in this matter, but there is no harm in this

because intervention does not do any harm. On the contrary, I believe that it confirms the people's authority. Such arbitration is always referred to the basic people's congresses, in other words, to the people. Arbitration is by the basic people's congresses.

This People's Court is not above the basic people's congresses, but is subordinate to them. The basic people's congress may change it, look into it again. They may... [pauses] in this period, however, the court is a guarantee against abuses which I believe have led to the imprisonment of people, or have prevented people from leaving the country. They have led to situations in which some cases required investigation and in which we found ourselves forced to set up extraordinary courts to examine these cases. I am abolishing all these things so that tranquility will prevail and so that everyone will feel that he is his own master. Anyone who wants to be unfair to himself is free to do so.

Anyway, reason has triumphed over ignorance. Onward! The struggle continues! Thank you. [applause]

## People's Congress Sends Letter to Al-Qadhdhafi

*LD100048 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2054 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Letter from the General People's Congress in Ra's al-Unuf to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—read by unidentified speaker]

[Text] To: The brother leader and universal thinker, the revolutionary Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi:

These are glorious moments of the history of our great revolution, from the fortress of the industrial Ra's al-Unuf, in the hearts of the steadfast people perfumed and baptised by the blood of martyrs. This is a time when the masses of our heroic people are celebrating the 11th anniversary of the declaration of people's power and the establishment of the first jamahiriyah in history. It is the end of the meetings of the General People's Congress, the conclusion of the final stage of the formulation of the resolutions of the basic people's congresses concerning the present and the future of the people, and all that supports their march, establishes their choices and achievements, and directs them by the theories of the pioneering revolution and by the guidance of its leader.

This is a time of the escalation of the Arab revolution movement, represented in the rise of the revolution of the stone, the revolution of the generation of anger. These have nullified all the plans of surrender, and affirm your incitement and the effectiveness of your role in leading the vanguard of the popular revolution. The members of the General People's Congress, the Arab and international members, who have listened to your guidance and been inspired by your fertile mind, declare their commitment to the principled standpoint aimed at making the jamahiriyah a land for all Arabs, a place of freedom in which everybody is equal without distinction. They also declare their rejection of all the proposals to liquidate support of the armed struggle, as this is the sole solution.

They also seize the opportunity to appraise with pride and hail with admiration the historical step with which you inaugurated and made good this anniversary. You personally demolished the prison walls and freed hundreds of citizens who had gone astray and had been imprisoned. However, your action in freeing them was the best example of foregiveness and pardon; it is advanced notice that the day of freedom is going to be extended to everybody, make everyone happy, and give everyone without exception the right to express himself.

We are certain, O great leader, that such a colossal act has blocked the road to all wrong-doers, made every deceiver miss an opportunity, and put a limit to every malevolent and cowardly act. A revolution that has attained such an achievement is, without any argument, much bigger than fear, much stronger than its enemies, and more capable of looking after its colossal achievements and its huge triumphs.

History will surely bow before any leader who can achieve such wonders. Forward forever along the path of the great Fatih! Glory will be yours, O great leader! [applause]

## Chadian Cease-Fire 'Allegations' Denied

*LD101123 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1025 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Mar, JANA—The people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued the following statement:

The Great Jamahiriyah categorically denies the allegations made by Ndjamena that the Great Jamahiriyah has again violated the cease-fire. These were presented in a communique from the so-called Chadian Army Supreme Command.

Libya has nothing to do with the events taking place on the eastern and Sudanese borders, or in the central, eastern, and southeastern regions of Chad. Nor does it have anything to do with what is happening in the outskirts of Ndjamena. The clashes and battles occurring in these regions are being carried out by the troops of the First Army and the tribes of Salamat, Hadjerai, Razighat, and Zaghawa. These groups have been leading a rebellious movement against Ndjamena's authority.

The Great Jamahiriyah has not violated the cease-fire. Ndjamena's allegations are in fact nothing but a blatant maneuver with which Habre is trying to find excuses for aggression against the Jamahiriyah. Libya is not responsible for the tribes' rebellion; nor is it responsible in any way for securing the borders of sovereign countries neighboring Chad.

The Great Jamahiriyah stresses its firm stand in complying with the cease-fire estsblished by the OAU and its support for the organization's efforts to acheive stability in the region in solving the Chadian problem.

**Tunisian Ships, Crews Released From Zuwarah**
*LD091653 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Al-Niqat al-Khams, 9 Mar (JANA)—The two Tunisian dredges "Al-Qadi" and "Husam," along with their 25-member crews, were released at the port of Zuwarah. The two dredges were detained inside the coastal region of Abu Kammash earlier this month.

Their release was attended by the brother secretary of the people's committee for justice at the municipality of Al-Niqat al-Khams, the adviser of the Tunisian general consulate to the Great Jamahiriyah, and a number of consulate officials.

The prisoners were released in accordance with the brother leader of the revolution's address at the General People's Congress on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the people's power and the birth of the Jamahiriyah. They have left the region of Ra's 'Ajdir.

The crews of the two dredges expressed their appreciation for this step, and praised the brother leader of the revolution's stance in demolishing the prison and freeing the inmates.

On this occasion, the Tunisian general consulate's adviser delivered a speech hailing this act. He affirmed that the release included not only the two crews, but also the remaining Tunisian prisoners. They were set free following the big step taken by the brother leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in demolishing the prison and freeing the prisoners. He added: We thank the brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, for this big act of liberation. The whole world appreciates his act, which has given man his humanity.

## Sudan

**Officials Survive Explosion, Fire in Kusti**
*JN091748 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1714 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar (SUNA)—Wednesday's edition of the Khartoum newspaper AL-USBU' notes that Central Region Governor Faruq Isma'il, some of the region's ministers, and Nasr al-Din al-Hadi al-Mahdi, deputy secretary general of the Al-Ummah Party, survived almost certain death as a result of an explosion.

The newspaper said the explosion caused a huge fire, which destroyed the second floor of the house they were staying in during the governor's visit to Kusti on 7 March. The security and police authorities in the Central Region and Kusti began their investigations into the particulars of the incident.

AL-USBU' has obtained exclusive reports that reveal very important and serious information collected by the police about the true dimensions of this strange incident.

**Rebels Kill 15 Soldiers in Upper Nile Battle**
*EA091554 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] Units of Fashoda Battalion under the overall command of Commander Lam Akol Ajawin intercepted an enemy force combined with militia at (Dit Angot) in northern Upper Nile on 26 February 1988. Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in northern Upper Nile says that the enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and materiel.

More than 15 bodies were left on the battleground. Thirty others were seriously injured and one was captured. [passage omitted]

## Tunisia

**Baccouche Submits Amendments to Constitution**
*LD081647 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Text] On behalf of the president, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche this morning submitted the draft revision of the country's Constitution for the consideration to the House of Representatives at its general session held this morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Rachid Sfar and in the presence of a number of Cabinet members and members of the Destourian Democratic Rally Political Bureau.

In his address the prime minister explained the political and national dimensions of the revision of the Constitution, recalling the struggle of the Tunisian people before and after independence to approve the Constitution in the country. He added that we in Tunis, after 30 years of independence, cherish the Republic and adhere to our Constitution despite the various amendments introduced to it.

We also cherish the fact that the November change was first and foremost in accordance with the Constitution, which the Tunisian people see as a most important asset, reaffirming what President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has stressed concerning the firm will and strength in respecting and protecting the Constitution and to die in its defense. He also stressed that we will remain faithful to the Constitution and we understand the sacrifices of the Tunisian people to ensure its future.

Mr Hedi Baccouche added that Tunisia's progress and development since independence require that we adapt our Constitution and laws in line with the new conditions that

we have created, which means that some provisions of the Constitution are unsuitable for the new Tunisia and the aspirations of its people. Although it was difficult or impossible to amend the Constitution some time ago, it has become possible since the change of 7 November.

The president of the Republic has taken the initiative in announcing the most important revisions desired by the Tunisian people. After intense study and wide consultations, including with a selection of Tunisia's free citizens, which was extended to include recognized parties [words indistinct].

The prime minister said the draft amendment envisages the revision of some chapters of the Constitution, and not a revision of the entire Constitution. Common sense stipulates that we change whatever has become unsuitable, and there is no use in changing the whole of the Constitution, because constitutions are strong and respected to the extent that they are rooted deep in history and in the popular memory and are thereby protected.

The prime minister then recalled the main dates of the amendments of the country's Constitution, which have contributed toward the deterioration of our system. And here we can say that it is impermissible for an educated people aspiring to excellence—who have abolished the hereditary system after it proved to be a cause of failure in our country before and after the [French] protection—to accept what was a manifestation of deterioration.

The presidency for life is inconsistent with the aspirations of our people, and this is what the statement of 7 November emphasized. It is time now to propose its omission from the Constitution. It is also democratic that a successor to the president of the Republic should be appointed. And here it is imperative to go back to the original basis of democracy and enable the speaker of the House of Representatives to assume the duties of the presidency should there be a vacancy, and to supervise free and democratic elections through which the people will appoint whomsoever they see fit.

The prime minister also touched on the intended amendment to the chapter pertaining to the bill of censure. What is new is that the House of Representatives can agree on the bill whenever it sees a deviation or a mistake. [sentence as heard]

The prime minister stressed that the presidential system in our country is more responsive to the requirements of our society. There is also a world trend toward a return to the presidential system, or something similar to it.

The new amendment also concerns the duties of the prime minister. It proposes that the prime minister be first assistant to the president, coordinating the work of the government and deputies with the president when necessary, while the remaining matters of state will be part of the duties of the president, who is responsible for the executive branch.

The prime minister then touched upon the national dimension of the new revisions. He remarked that, by making it a condition that any candidate to the presidency, and also his parents, have tunisian nationality, we are affirming our origins and deep roots in our human and cultural environment. It is not permissible for the president to hold a second nationality, and he must also be a Muslim.

He described the reduction of the age of those eligible for election to the House of Representatives to 25 years as an indication of the status of youth in the new era.

The prime minister also touched upon questions relating to the commission in charge of examining presidential candidacy and the possibility of arranging legislative elections before 1991. The prime minister stressed that these amendments aim basically at reinforcing the republican and constitutional system in the country and the establishment of a state with institutions and laws. They embody the new stage experienced by the country.

He concluded his statement with a quotation from the Koran: Say work, and God, his messenger, and the faithful will notice your work.

Following his address, all the representatives agreed to examine and study this amendment. Mr Rachid Sfar announced the names of those on the committee who will study the amendment, which is composed of 22 representatives, noting that it is open to contributions from all the representatives in order to enrich the dialogue.

It is to be noted that the House of Representatives earlier looked into draft bills. The first of them related to the ratification of the scientific and technical cooperation agreement between Tunisia and Algeria, and the second to the revision and completion of the law establishing the export promotion center.

## Kuwait

### Jordan's King Husayn Arrives on 3-Hour Visit

*LD091356 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Excerpts] At 1230 today His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the sister Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport on a short visit. [passage omitted]

His majesty has conducted talks with his brother the amir. The minister of amiri affairs has announced that the talks dealt with the Iraq-Iran war and the international efforts being exerted to stop the fighting, the development of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and ways to support it, and bilateral relations.

His majesty was accompanied by a delegation which included the following: Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdeh, minister of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince [name indistinct], chief of the trustees; Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and a number of senior Jordanian officials.

His majesty and the accompanying delegation left the country at 1530 via Kuwait International Airport. [passage omitted]

### Further on Talks

*JN091449 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 9 Mar (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad this afternoon on a working visit.

Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of court; Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister, attended the talks on the Jordanian side.

The talks on the Kuwaiti side were attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Sabah, acting prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of amiri court affairs; Rashid al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usyami, minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

### Foreign Minister Receives Shevardnadze Letter

*LD091228 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Mar (KUNA)—Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the acting prime minister and foreign minister, received a letter today from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardndze.

The letter was delivered to the director of the minister's office, 'Abdallah Sa'ud 'Abd al-Razzaq, by Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev during a meeting they had today at the ministry.

'Abd al-Razzaq told KUNA that the letter came on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

He said that in his letter, Shevardnadze praised the friendly relations based on mutual respect between Kuwait and the Soviet Union. He also praised the continuing cooperation between the two countries in all fields and their cooperation on the region's issues and in the service of world security and peace.

### PRC Denies Supplying Chemical Weapons to Iran

*LD091942 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1901 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Kuwait 9 Mar (KUNA)—The Chinese Embassy in Kuwait today denied press reports that China was supplying Iran with chemical weapons.

A press communique issued by the embassy and handed to KUNA said that the embassy "categorically denies these reports and affirms they have no basis in truth and are mere tendentious calumnies."

The communique stressed that "it is common knowledge that the PRC Government always and constantly calls for the banning and destruction of chemical weapons and that it opposes their use in war under all circumstances and by all sides. Moreover, China does not possess these weapons, nor does it manufacture them."

## Saudi Arabia

### 'UKAZ Deplores Decision To Close PLO Mission

*PM091643 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 2 Mar 88 p 5*

[Editorial: "The U.S. Congress' Decision and the Palestinian Voice"]

[Text] The resumed UN General Assembly session discussing the U.S. Congress' decision to close the PLO UN office represents the desire of the international community to defend its will and identity and preserve its legal framework.

When the PLO obtained observer status in the UN General Assembly by virtue of the fact it is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, this was based on the approval of the international community and its recognition of the PLO's right to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people before this international body.

Therefore, Congress does not have the right to adopt a decision to close the PLO office at the United Nations because the office was not set up as a consequence of a U.S. decision.

If Congress' decision to close the Palestinian information office in Washington were viewed as an internal matter, then Congress' decision to close the PLO's mission to the United Nations cannot be viewed from the same angle, because there is a headquarters agreement ratified with the United States, which is considered the host state. The agreement regulates the legal relationship between the United Nations and the United States.

Therefore the U.S. Congress' decision does not represent an internal matter. It touches on the core of U.S. commitments and its international pledges.

It is not just the Arab and Islamic states that are defending the existence of the PLO office at the United Nations, but the nonaligned states, West and East European states, and every upholder of truth have joined in.

Therefore, the defense of this cause is not a nationalist uproar but the defense of a principle of truth and of basic principles which the United States itself led the way in building.

Why does the United States ask for the closure of the PLO mission in particular when the United Nations includes many states—some friendly with the United States and others not—so why pick on the Palestinian voice?

Zionism, which seeks to eliminate the Palestinian cause and eliminate the Palestinian identity, has not and will not succeed in removing the issue from international attention and stifling the Palestinian voice, which frightens them through the courageous Palestinian popular uprising inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Americans, who are faced with the UN secretary general's call for acceptance of the principle of arbitration and the international community's defense of the existence of the PLO office, will find themselves pushed into a difficult and awkward position by the Zionist lobby to serve aims that it has been unable and remains unable to fulfill and which are at odds with the values and principles embraced and defended by leaders of the free world.

The disappearance of the voice and defender of Arab causes during the U.S. election season, during which the Zionist groups are active, is significant and Congress' decision to close the PLO office at the United Nations is even more significant. Are the Americans going over their calculations and reappraising their positions, which would contribute effectively to serving the issues of peace, security, and stability and backing the principles of truth and justice?

### Five Principles To Stop Cities Attacks Set

*JN101353 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—Iraq has set five principles that will stop its bombardment of Iranian cities with missiles, planes, and other weapons 24 hours after the announcement of the official statement in this regard, that is at 1600 local time, 1300 GMT tomorrow, 11 March 1988.

This was announced in a statement by an official spokesman after a meeting today of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The meeting was chaired by President Saddam Husayn. The official spokesman for the RCC outlined the following principles to stop the bombardment of Iranian cities:

1. Since Iran began the cities war every time, including this time, and since Iran began the shelling of our great capital Baghdad in 1985, and this time, when it fired two missiles on Baghdad on 29 February, the last shelling operation must be an Iraqi one before this moratorium is implemented on the set date. If the Iranian regime shells any of our cities with missiles, planes, or artillery in reply to the last Iraqi operation, then we will strongly and comprehensively continue the shelling to teach the Tehran rulers a lesson.

2. Iraq will resume the shelling of Iranian cities with all means if the Iranian regime resumes its shelling of Iraqi cities and villages with artillery, planes, missiles, or any other weapons aimed at civilians and strictly residential areas.

3. Iraq will resume the bombardment of Iranian cities with all means if the Iranian regime attacks any Arab city as it has in the past.

4. Iraq will resume the bombardment of Iranian cities with all means if the Iranian regime carries out any new aggression against our international border and attempts to invade our territory on the axes leading to Iraqi cities. In all previous invasion attempts, Iraqi cities like Basra, Al-'Amarah, Khanaqin, Al-Sulaymaniyah, and others were targets for the Iranian regime's artillery and other weapons. This time we will respond to these attempts comprehensively, through the bombardment of all Iranian cities.

5. It is necessary to assert that no confusion should occur between the bombardment of economic targets which serve the aggressive war machine, and the bombardment of purely residential areas. As long as the Iranian regime continues the aggressive war against Iraq, Iraq will be entitled to strike at the targets which serve and feed the machine of aggression and war. This is approved by international law.

The spokesman added: These are the bases we lay down. They are clear and just. We will abide by our pledge not to bombard Iranian cities as of 1600 tomorrow, Friday. If the Iranian regime violates these bases, we will be forced to resume a firm and comprehensive response..

The spokesman affirmed that the international community, especially the UN Security Council, is now required to continue serious, persistent work to seriously implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 through the issuance of a resolution imposing sanctions on Iran, which has insisted on defying the international community's will, refusing to abide by the binding UN Security Council resolution, and continuing the killing and destruction.

### Ramadan Says 'Hardest Blows' To Continue

*JN091447 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1332 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)—During a meeting today with Lawrence Modi Tombi, Sudanese minister of labor and civil service, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, affirmed that Iraq will continue to deal the hardest blows to the rulers of Iran.

He also affirmed that Iraq will continue to strike at Iranian economic installations and military units along the front until the rulers of Iran accept peace.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed Iraq's constant readiness to extend various forms of support for the sisterly Arab countries, pointing out that the war circumstances will prevent it from doing so.

The Sudanese minister expressed Sudan's thanks—government and people—for Iraq's pan-Arab stands and continuous support for its brothers.

He affirmed that Sudan—government and people—will continue to stand alongside Iraq in its defense of its sovereignty and land. He also expressed appreciation for Iraq's peaceful stands.

## Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

### Iranian Plane Raids Arbat

*JN091456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1431 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, northern Iraq, 9 Mar (INA)—An Iranian aircraft raided Arbat district in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, northern Iraq, at 1307 [1007 GMT] today.

The military spokesman said that the raid caused the martyrdom and injury of several people including women, old men, and children. Houses, shops, and civilian cars were also damaged.

### Communique Details Air Strikes

*JN091547 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1452 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Communique No 3,060 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the resolve of men who have faith in God and the sacred soil of the homeland, and who take revenge on our enemies, our heroic Air Force continues its heroic activities deep inside enemy territory. Our valiant aircraft carried out the following heroic missions today:

1. At 1058 [0758 GMT], our planes launched a destructive raid on Dezful.

2. At 1155, our planes launched a raid on Rasht, northernmost Iran.

3. At 1308 today, our planes launched a resolute raid on enemy artillery emplacements. Our rapacious hawks managed to deal devastating blows inflicting on the enemy the heaviest losses in artillery and its scoundrels.

4. At 1314, our planes launched a raid on military and industrial installations in Sar Pol-e Zahab. They pounded their targets and set them ablaze.

5. At 1315, other numbers of our planes launched a raid on economic and military installations in the city of Ilam. They destroyed their targets and set them ablaze.

6. Also at 1315, other numbers of our planes launched a raid on industrial installations to the north of Dezful. They pounded their targets and set them all ablaze.

7. At 1330, other numbers of our planes launched a devastating raid on the enemy's economic and military installations in the city of Nahavand, pounding their targets and setting them ablaze.

8. At 1526, our planes launched a destructive raid on the city of Kermanshah.

9. At 1642, our planes launched a destructive raid on the city of Hamadan.

O pretentious Khomeyniites, this is Iraq and those are the blows of its sons. If the intentions of wickedness have failed and the spearheads of treachery have boomeranged back to you when you started the war, the hopes you pinned on the prolongation of the war and the bombardment of cities have also failed, with God's help and the resolve of the zealous, sincere, brave men. By God we will avenge every pure drop of blood; deal you unprecedented, painful blows; and make you a lesson for anyone who bears in mind an enmity toward freedom, life, and progress.

God bless our brave men of the heroic Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Keep up the good work on the path of a decisive victory, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 March 1988

## Communique No 3,061

*JN091842 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1704 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Communique No 3,061 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Al-Husayn missiles are the blessed product of the Iraqi brain, which is reaching the highest peaks of this age and coming in contact with the most advanced and sophisticated scientific methods. The destructive force possessed by our country, thanks to the sound instructions of our great leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, is being used in defense of truth and its objectives and as a part of our just struggle to achieve peace and deter those who attacked, and are still attacking, the proud Iraqi houses in our secure cities.

With God's help, we are continuing to use this force to pound the dens of the devils, the Tehran rulers, who insist on the war and do not care about the suffering of their people. The following missile strikes were carried out last night and today against Iranian cites.

1. At 2227 [1927 GMT] last night, the 41st missile strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against Tehran.

2. At 2300 last night, the 42d missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against the city of Esfahan.

3. At 1124 today, the 43d missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against Tehran.

4. At 1800 today, the 44th missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against Tehran.

Iraq has gained the admiration of the entire world while fighting against its enemies and building edifices of goodness under the banner of its beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Iraq can return harm to those seeking it for others. It can make the woes of the war be suffered by those who started the war and insist on it. We will make the war of cities which they started a true disaster afflicting them, shaking their existence, and aggravating their pains.

May God bless the good, continued efforts of our men in the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. Praise and thanks be to God for granting us this power.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 March 1988

## Communique No 3,062

*JN091851 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1708 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Communique No 3,062 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continue to carry out their combat activities in the sectors of operations. The results of these activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, 16 of the scoundrels were killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

2. One infantry position was destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. One enemy medium machinegun was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Three infantry positions and one post were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, three of the aggressors were killed and one infantry position was destroyed.

6. At 0941 [0641 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian rulers fired one of the missiles they have obtained from the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation on one of the residential districts of Baghdad. This resulted in the martyrdom of and injury to a number of civilians, including women, old men, and children. A number of houses, shops, and civilian cars were damaged. At 1307 today, an enemy aircraft raided the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, aiming at residential districts in the Arbat District. The incident resulted in the martyrdom of and injury to a number of civilians, including women, old men, and children. A number of houses, shops, and civilian cars were damaged.

The criminal enemy also shelled with long-range artillery last night and today residential districts in Basrah, Maysan, Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, Badrah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Mandali, Qal'at Dizah, (Qazaniyah), Al-Dayr, and Al-'Uzayr. The enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of a number of civilians and injuries to others. Among the martyred and wounded were a number of women, old men, and children. The shelling damaged a number of houses, shops, and other civilian properties. Heaven for our martyrs and quick recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 March 1988

## 45th Missile Strike

*JN092100 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2014 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 9 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Zionist alliance with the rulers of Iran has been clear since the beginning, since the Zionist bombardment of the Tammuz reactor for peaceful purposes, and since the coincidence of the 1982 battles east of Al-Basrah with the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. Today, the rulers of Iran, the slaves of Zionism, are repeating the same game. They started the cities war to distract attention from the revolution of our kinfolk in Palestine and their valiant struggle, to place obstacles before international efforts to establish peace, and to entrench the common denominator between them and Zionism in their enmity toward the Arab awakening and the killing of secure people.

However, proud Iraq, which continues the battles of struggle and reconstruction under the banner of its great leader, is able with God's help to shatter their malice and to turn their black intentions into disasters against them. We continue to pound the dens of criminals. The 45th strike with Al-Husayn missiles was carried out against the city of Tehran at 2250 [1950 GMT] tonight.

May God bless the faithful men in the military industries and our heroic missile force. They are among the best builders and defenders of their homeland. We derive success and assistance from God.

[Dated] 9 March 1988

## 46th Attack on Tehran

*JN100538 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 10 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We Iraqis, who have had good experience with the Iranian rulers and who have realizd their evil motives, are no longer surprised by their renewal of the war of the cities and their directing of their hatred against our defenseless citizens. This takes place at a time when our Palestinian people's uprising is escalating in the occupied territories and when world support for our legitimate struggle is growing.

This is due to the fact that the tyrant Iranian rulers make foremost among their goals the service of the Zionist scheme. These rulers join world Zionism and its entity in enmity to the Arab nation without paying attention to the real interests of their peoples.

To defend our land and our citizens in our beloved cities, we continue to deal our missile blows to the dens of charalatanism, buffoonery, and agentry. The 46th strike with Al-Husayn missiles was launched with God's help at Tehran at 0534 [0234 GMT] today. Glory to our men in the military industries and our heroic missile force. Praise be to God, who supports us against the unjust ones.

[Dated] 10 March 1988

## Basra, Al-Qurnah Shelled

*JN100649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0634 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 10 Mar (INA)—Throughout last night, Iranian forces continued their brutal shelling of the cities of Basra and Al-Qurnah, north of Basra, with long-range artillery.

In a statement today, the military spokesman said artillery shells hit residential areas in both cities, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women, old people, and children. He added that the shelling also damaged civilian property, houses, and cars.

## 47th Strike Launched

*JN101011 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0954 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 10 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iranian rulers, who receive instructions from Zionism, imagined that igniting the cities war would achieve their evil goals. They misunderstood Iraq's lengthy patience and its repeated warnings. Now, they should realize how weak they are against Iraq, and that only they are held responsible for all the destruction inflicted on Iran and its peoples.

The Iranian rulers insisted on war, threw all international resolutions overboard and added the cities war to their numerous foolish actions. To deter these criminals, the 47th strike with Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran at 1230 [0930 GMT] today. May God bless our men in the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. Praise be to God, the almighty, for his great victory and generous assistance.

[Dated] 10 March 1988

## Shelling of Cities Continues

*JN101038 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1034 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—The Iranian regime has continued to shell Iraqi residential areas in the cities of Al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq, and 'Ali al-Gharbi and Al-Dayr in southern Iraq, with long-range artillery.

A military spokesman has told INA that the continued Iranian artillery shelling has so far martyred and wounded a number of civilians, including women, old people, and children. The shelling also demolished and damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars.

## Downing of Plane Denied

*JN101212 Baghdad INA in English 1204 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 10, INA—Iraq has denied Iranian allegations that an Iraqi aircraft was downed at noon today.

An Iraqi military spokesman said that the Iranian regime by airing such lies meant to cover up severe blows dealt to it everyday by the Iraqi Air Force.

## 'Silence' on Gulf War Amounts to 'Connivance'

*JN101223 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 10, INA—It should be very clear and highly understandable that maintaining silence toward the ongoing Iraq-Iran war 'is a crime," AL-JUMHURIYAH paper of Iraq said.

Urging for putting Resolution No 598 into effect, the Iraqi daily noted here today that reluctance to do so "amounts to a connivance with aggression." The Iran regime was responsible for sparking off, continuing and escalating the war, the paper said, adding hence the international community should move to demonstrate its prestige and to impose its domination over the rulers of Iran, who were putting peoples' destiny at stake.

Imposing peace on Tehran, AL-JUMHURIYAH reiterated, "means freeing the region of fear, anxiety and unrest and emancipating the international will from political blackmail attempts."

## Paper Rejects 'Partitioning' Solutions

*JN100904 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that Iraq rejects partitioning the war and terminating the war of the cities without taking into consideration the termination of the whole war in accordance with Resolution No 598. The paper adds that the call for a halt to the war of cities means a return to partitioning the war and then the partitioning the solution, which Iraq rejects.

In a leading article today, the paper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says:

"Preoccupation with the war of the cities only means moving international efforts backward, specifically back to the phase prior to the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. It also means adhering to the results and branches and leaving the basic problem unresolved." The paper adds that the "war of the cities" is a result and a secondary problem due to the continuation of the war. The call for stopping the "war of the cities" only, without taking into consideration an end to the whole war, and regardless of the intentions behind this call, means helping the Iranian regime overcome its current dilemma and enabling it to continue its unjust aggression against Iraq in a manner that "threatens the security and safety of both the region and the world."

AL-THAWRAH says that ending the war by implementing Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses will stop the war of the cities and resolve all the secondary results and problems stemming from the continuation of the war. The paper affirms that practical experience has proved that the Tehran regime will not stop the war of the cities completely and finally as long as the war continues. It says: "It is a grave mistake to adhere to results and leave the basic problem unresolved."

The paper adds that Iraq is determined to exercise its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and the security of its people and cities, and to inflict deterrent punishment on the criminal regime until it recovers its senses, relinquishes its aggressive policy and criminal behavior, and resorts to a comprehensive, just, and durable peace. Otherwise, the charlatans in Iran should await further crushing and destructive air and missile strikes.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the Al-Husayn missiles have foiled all the Tehran regime's calculations and wagers and turned the war of the cities into a fatal dilemma for the charlatans, and a grave impasse out of which they can no longer move. The paper says the most urgent international mission in the current phase is that all international good offices should now be pooled and aimed at implementing Resolution No 598.

The paper adds that the Iranian regime, by igniting the war of the cities, tried to shuffle the cards once again and divert the international community's attention from its flagrant and declared rejection of peace and its failure to accept Resolution No 598. This move came when the regime felt

that international efforts to implement the resolution had crystallized and approached the phase of imposing sanctions in accordance with the international charter, because the Iranian regime is the party that rejects the resolution issued by the mechanism of international legality.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the regime of the charlatan Khomeyni was the party that ignited the war of cities and is still paying a very dear price for it. Although this regime still fires missiles at Baghdad and Mosul and shells with long-range artillery the cities of Basra, Al-'Amarah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Al-Harithah, Badrah, and Khanaqin, this shelling expresses the Iranian regime's impotence and its political, economic, and military bankruptcy.

## Syria Accused of Training Iranian Pilots

*JN091837 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Mar 88 pp 1, 11*

[Article by 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn "When Traitors Become Exposed"]

[Text] The Syrian regime has completed the training of Iranian pilots at an air base near Latakia. Iran has also asked its Arab ally to supply it with weapons from the Syrian arsenals, which have never been useful in confronting the Zionists who are tormenting and killing our people in occupied Palestine and the Golan Heights.

I wish there were an Arabic word stronger than traitor so we could use it to describe those who imposed themselves on Arab Syria and transformed it into a spearhead to strike at the Arab nation in Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq.

Is it a coincidence that the Persian pilots should complete their training when Iran is waging a war of cities against Iraq? Does the Syrian regime want these trained Persian pilots to come to the rescue of the cowards who are attacking populated Iraqi centers and terrorizing the Arabian Gulf states, who are carrying out their pan-Arab responsibilities in the fateful battle? Is it a coincidence that this should take place when there is an overwhelming Palestinian Arab uprising in occupied Palestine?

I wonder: Do the Arabs who support the Syrian regime and strengthen its economy believe they are backing an Arab regime confronting Israel, or an enemy that is an ally of Israel, which extends to Iran the means of aggression, and trains its barbarians to strike at Arab cities?

Can the Arab League remain silent when the traitors remove all of their masks and begin training the enemy to destroy Baghdad, Kuwait, Riyadh, and other Arab towns? Can the ambassadors of these traitors remain in Arab capitals when they are still carrying out their treasonous, heinous actions? After what Hafiz al-Asad's regime has done, there is no difference between a Syrian ambasasador in an Arab capital and an Israeli ambassador. Are we prepared to accept such ambassadors in our midst?

The Zionist entity is an enemy of the Arabs. The Syrian regime is doing the same as the Zionist enemy. It is supporting the enemy that occupies our land, fighting our people, and training the barbarians to kill our people and destroy our cities. The Syrian regime is even worse because it is ruling an Arab country. This makes its crime and sin greater.

For what does the Syrian regime train the Tehran devils? Does it train them to fight on the Palestinian front against the Zionist entity? Does it train them to strike Baghdad, the glorious capital of Harun al-Rashid and the city which came to the rescue of Damascus when it was collapsing under the feet of the Zionists in 1973? Does it train them to destroy Kuwait and Riyadh? Until recently, these two capitals have been extending support and assistance to this regime to face the Zionist entity, not to confront the Arab nation represented by chaste Iraq, which is confronting our historical enemy.

For what does the Syrian regime train the Tehran devils? Does it train them to destroy the Kaaba or the Mecca mosque or to paralyze the movement of Arab ships or to rob and destroy them?

We will not say anything to this regime because it has been unmasked for a long time. We merely draw the attention of those who support this regime by claiming that it is a confrontation state facing the Zionist entity.

Do they now know the nature and kind of Syrian confrontation?

## Further Comments on U.S. Peace Initiative

### Shamir on 'Battle' With U.S.

*TA091638 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1530 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] We have just been informed that the prime minister said tonight that we must not give in to U.S. pressure, and that early elections should be discussed only after the battle against the United States is over. Mr Shamir made these remarks in an address before the Likud faction in the Knesset. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The U.S. plan was conceived in sin, the sin of surrender to U.S. pressure. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made these remarks in a sharp attack on the Shultz plan. Addressing members of his faction, Shamir said that the Likud must go to war and must do battle against the Shultz plan, so that no one can later say that we stood by, doing nothing to protect ourselves. The prime minister emphasized that in any event, even if we lose the battle, we are the ones with the key, and nobody can launch a political process without us.

[Shamir] Therefore I think that not only should we avoid giving in to pressure by accepting this initiative—of course we should not. Neither, however, should we give in by failing to face up to the situation, by not going to this battlefield, not presenting our positions, or not making the utmost efforts to change the situation, change opinions, and halt the deterioration in the attitudes of various friends and various circles in the United States and throughout the world.

[Gutman] As for advancing the elections, Shamir said that we must not allow external factors to influence the date of our elections. The prime minister promised to discuss the possibility of early elections upon his return from the United States.

Minister David Levi is now addressing the Likud faction, demanding that the Shultz plan be rejected outright. Later, other faction members will speak on the issue, and are expected to express unequivocal support for the demand that the Shultz plan be rejected. [end recording]

### 'Broken' U.S. Commitments Noted

*TA091900 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] On the eve of his departure to the United States, after the meeting of the Likud ministers, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that we must be ready to do battle with the United States, which has broken its prior commitments to Israel by introducing the Shultz plan. Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports from the broadcasting van near the prime minister's office:

[Begin recording] [Sher] The administration's decision to initiate an effort toward the launching of negotiations between the parties was provoked solely by the wave of violence and riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It was only after the riots broke out and panic seized various elements in the United States, that a fear was born that other elements would snatch the leading role—the Soviets, the Europeans, the Arab countries—and that the United States would no longer have any role to play in the area.

[Shamir] It is possible that the United States can afford to change its mind on this issue despite the fact that this is contrary to its leaders' opinions. But really, what can the United States lose? It can perhaps lose something from the strategic point of view, from the point of view of its status in the Middle East, but it can afford these luxuries. By now the United States is used to losing positions and status in various parts of the world, which happens when it surrenders to various pressures. We, on the other hand, are in an entirely different position. We cannot afford to give up on principles that to a great extent can determine our fate and our future.

[Sher] Disagreements are a natural component of international relations, of our relations with the United States, says the prime minister. We must not slam the door on the United States. We should explain and insist on our positions. It is inconceivable that Israel should agree to such a violation of prior U.S. commitments. Who can promise that this paper, the Shultz document, will be honored in the future?

As for the possibility of early elections, Mr Shamir suggests that this matter be detached from the political process.

[Shamir] It is a matter of approximately 10 days, 2 weeks at the most. We will then decide at leisure and with a clear mind.

[Sher] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi cautions against the possibility of Prime Minister Shamir's efforts being linked to the prestige of the U.S. President and secretary of state. The chances of changing the substance of the plan in this event will be slim, he said. I am very much afraid of this trip with the decision still not reached. He told the prime minister: I disagree with your assessment that the plan can be changed out there. It is an impossible mission. The Alignment should be allowed to raise its proposal to support the plan. We will vote together. After all, we are united on this issue and can present a unanimous front encompassing the entire Likud. If that happens, you will arrive there with a formulated Cabinet decision.

As for elections, they are a democratic act, one that derives from the situation in which we find ourselves. Without early elections, we will be exhausted when November arrives, as will the public. What good can 2 or 3 months do to the Likud, or to Israel, when the price is so high?

Minister Sharon said that each day we retain the premiership is another day in which we can prevent dangerous developments. The elections should not be brought forward. No such step should be initiated. The prime minister is bound to withstand pressure in Washington. We cannot live by a stopwatch. First of all, let the prime minister go to Washington. We will make decisions with a tranquil mind later. [end recording]

## Shamir Explains Absence of Vote

*TA092022 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren following a meeting of the Likud faction on 9 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Prime Minister, is there still a possibility that you will bring the Shultz plan up for a vote in the Inner Cabinet prior to your departure for the United States?

[Shamir] I do not think so. I told my colleagues that I agree to any discussion, that I, in fact, welcome any discussion, both in the framework of the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet. Still, I will bring the issue up for a decision or a vote only after I return from my visit to the United States.

[Goren] What is your attitude toward the remarks by the vice prime minister, who today said that the situation created will be that in the United States you will represent only half of the Israeli Government?

[Shamir] The same would be said after the vote as well. After all, we all know what the results of the vote would be. There are five Alignment opposite five Likud members in the Inner Cabinet; namely, half the government is for, while half the government is against. So if I arrive in the United States after such a vote, it will be said that I represent one half. There is no difference then in this respect.

In the United States I will have to cope with the difficulties of the situation. I will have to explain our positions to the U.S. Administration, public opinion, and the Jewish public. I know that numerous obstacles and impediments are expected for me on these three fronts. Still, I do not think that one should evade and run away from obstacles. One should have a direct confrontation with them. This is how we should conduct ourselves politically, at least. We will wait and see what the results will be. I believe that we will be the winners ultimately.

[Goren] Sir, when will you decide about the date of elections?

[Shamir] After my return from my visit to the United States we will discuss, consider, and decide if it is absolutely necessary to change the date, since this has great importance for the stability of the democratic rules accepted in the country. There are, for instance, countries where by law one cannot change the date of elections, regardless of events in the country. We do not have such a law, and we have held early elections in many cases. We shall make a decision.

[Goren] Do you intend to coordinate the election date with the Alignment?

[Shamir] When we decide on a change of date we will make an effort to coordinate with the Alignment.

## Moda'i Opposes 'Entire Document'

*TA091926 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Interview with Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i by political affairs correspondent Me'ir Kohen, in Moda'i's office on 9 March—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen] Does it seem strange to you that the prime minister is traveling to Washington to hold a discussion with the Americans without an Israeli stance, without a government position?

[Moda'i] As you well know, this meeting, this trip to Washington and the meeting with President Reagan, was set some time ago, regardless of the Shultz document, without us knowing of any intention to produce such a document. So the trip should take place. The assumption is that the hosts will also raise questions connected to the document, but the prime minister can hold clarifications on a document even if there is no Cabinet decision. Also, what do you think? Do you believe a decision would have been made had a vote been held? Were a vote held, the entire Likud would have voted against accepting the content of this document, which is purely procedural, and the entire Alignment would have voted for it. In other words, the Inner Cabinet would have made no decision on the document. So why is the Alignment pushing for a vote? The Alignment calls this a decision when it knows there will be no decision.

[Kohen] Still, the Americans have set a deadline.

[Moda'i] So? Are we a U.S. satellite? What does it mean that the United States has set a date? What is it, have we received an ultimatum from them? They asked that an answer be given on a certain date, and had we been ready to give an answer—were everybody of the opinion to accept or reject the document, for example—then we would have given an answer. Were a vote held under the present circumstances, would we be able to give the Americans an answer? What sort of a reply would we be able to give them after a vote is held? Would be able to say that the document is acceptable or unacceptable?

When you analyze it, in other words, this pressure which has been invited is meaningless. It is all prattle and futile challenging. Therefore, I do not see a point in having the Cabinet or the Inner Cabinet hold a vote when one knows the results in advance. This contributes nothing, neither for the U.S. request that we give them a reply at a certain date, and surely not for the state of Israel as far as discussing the proposals and shaping its position are concerned.

[Kohen] Sir, I would like to focus on the substance of the plan. The U.S. secretary of state said that his plan, his document, should be accepted as one package. Is it nevertheless possible to introduce changes in it?

[Moda'i] I have no doubt about it. I imagine that whoever received this document, if he wanted to accept its basics and introduce changes—as I assume or hear that King Husayn will do—then the Americans will put up with changes. In other words, the plan is not the Bible.

[Kohen] What sort of changes can be introduced, for instance?

[Moda'i] This is a totally different question. I am opposed to the entire document, therefore I will not talk with you about changes. Still, those who want to accept the document, can they not propose changes? For instance, if the document stipulates that talks on the interim arrangement will begin in May, and one of the partners concerned requests that they begin in June, will that mean an end to the document? Will this detract from the holiness of the document? Therefore, those interested in the approach, the procedural approach of the document, are entitled to ask for changes. Those who think that this entire document is good for the state of Israel, well, let them hold onto their opinion.

[Kohen] Sir, I can understand from your remarks that the prime minister is still going with a positive attitude toward the U.S. document, one of not rejecting the document, but introducing changes into it, if possible.

[Moda'i] The prime minister's position is known. His position is that the minimum we should have is what is stipulated in the Camp David Accords. Let us then look at the Camp David Accords, at least. This document does not at all resemble the Camp David Accords, except for several headlines—interim and final arrangements—and introduces elements which run counter even to the U.S. position, which was Shultz' just a few weeks ago, not months. For instance, a U.S.-Soviet opening rather than an international conference—this was Shultz' proposal. Why was it not adhered to? Because Husayn was opposed to it. In other words, one can oppose U.S. proposals and still survive.

## Arab Regimes' Stands Criticized

*TA091618 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic*
*7 Mar 88 pp 1, 8*

[Editorial: "8 Days?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz returned to his country following two shuttle trips during which he visited the region's capitals several times. He tried to promote his old merchandise and worn-out ideas but failed to find even a single Palestinian either inside or outside the occupied territories who is ready to buy this merchandise or even look at it. Apparently, however, this "false U.S. propagandist" managed to find customers in some Arab capitals. These customers not only did not suffice with purchasing the merchandise but also recruited themselves as brokers to promote it.

Arab voices being raised here and there perhaps affirm to some extent the success of the U.S. secretary in the second half of the game in managing to mobilize these kinds of promoters and middlemen. These apostate rulers are striving to depict the rusty U.S. proposals as worth studying and as containing encouraging points. They are continuing to exert pressure on the PLO to accept these proposals whose meaning and outcome can be understood and predicted by the youngest Palestinian child. By their statements, these middlemen who have long sold themselves to the U.S. Administration are providing a service to the United States and Israel and are again affirming their loyalty and commitment to their masters in the White House. They are thus precisely fulfilling the role drawn up for them.

At a time when the countdown has begun for presenting the final response to the U.S. warning to the Arab leaders, the Arab arena these days has become preoccupied with studying, clarifications, and close examinations, as if what Shultz has offered is worthy of being studied.

The rulers of the brokering regimes are betting on an Israeli refusal, whose scenario is known, and are trying to exploit it to deceive the Arabs into thinking that this proves the U.S. plan is good and that it would be inconceivable to reject it. Thus the Arab rulers who are ready to deal with this plan will have surmounted one of the most important obstacles facing them: justifying their adherence to U.S. schemes to their peoples.

Our people, while affirming their concern for the achievement of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, perceive an international conference with full powers, attended by the Security Council's five permanent member states and with the participation of all the parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties, as the only practical and real option for establishing peace in this region.

## U.S. Palestinian's Return for Talks Opposed

*TA031723 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew*
*3 Mar 88 pp 1, 2*

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] The prime minister's office has made clear that it would oppose the entry into Israel of Professor Edward Sa'id, who has been recalled as a candidate to represent the Palestinians in possible talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and calls on the U.S. secretary to hold the meeting with the Palestinian representation within the boundaries of Israel.

Officials in Yitzhaq Shamir's office told DAVAR that Israel will not provide Professor Sa'id with a visa because of his membership in the PNC, although he has U.S. citizenship. The officials pointed out that "it is a decision in principle" that will cover whoever is a member of the PLO or one of its institutions."

Officials in the foreign minister's office, on the other hand, said that they would not oppose visits by the two American professors of Palestinian descent, including Prof Sa'id.

The possibility that Secretary Shultz will meet with Palestinian representatives in Cairo tomorrow will be the main issue in the talks he will hold with Prime Minister Shamir. In their meeting tonight, Shamir will try to convince the U.S. secretary not to meet with PLO representatives or people identified with the organization, and not to hold his meetings with Palestinians outside Israel's boundaries.

## Rabin on Shultz Initiative, Territories Policy

*TA092057 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by moderator Yoram Ronen, Ron Ben-Yishay, and Beni Lis, on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening. Exactly 3 months ago, on 9 December 1987, the riots broke out in the territories. These riots shook the political and security system in Israel, caused a feeling of strong confusion and bewilderment in the public, harmed our world image, led to the U.S. peace initiative, and will apparently also lead to early elections in Israel. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is the guest of "Moqed" this evening. Good evening to you and to my colleagues, Ron Ben-Yishay and Beni Lis.

[Rabin] Good evening to you.

[Ronen] Mr Defense Minister, before we discuss the territories themselves, let us pose to you several short political questions. The prime minister today in fact rejected the Shultz plan. He clearly said that we should say no to the U.S. initiative, and fight the Shultz initiative. In your opinion, is there any chance for the Shultz initiative?

[Rabin] Look, in my opinion, if Israel does not give a positive answer to the Shultz initiative we will lose the only reasonable chance to reach peace negotiations.

[Ronen] There is no chance that such an answer will be given.

[Rabin] Look, first of all let me clarify my position. I do not see, either at present, or in the foreseeable future, a chance beyond the Shultz initiative to reach peace negotiations. Therefore, the key question facing us—not only the government but also the state and the people—is whether we truly want peace, or whether we do not, and refuse the Shultz initiative. If indeed, as you say, the prime minister said he rejects the initiative, I do not understand why this issue should not be brought to the Cabinet for a decision. If the answer is negative anyway, how can we say this to the Americans without deciding it internally first?

[Ben-Yishay] Do you mean the issue should be brought to the entire Cabinet for a decision?

[Rabin] I was referring to the Inner Cabinet, since at the moment we have a key issue in the political or security spheres, it should be decided in the Inner Cabinet according to the coalition agreement.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Shamir is right, though. The moment this issue is brought to the Inner Cabinet for a decision the answer will be split in half.

[Rabin] I and my colleagues believe that the issue is a key one in the life of the state. This is such an opportunity that there is no telling when we will have it repeated. I believe that Israel should exhaust the chances for peace, and the chance for this exists today. This is not a certainty, but a possibility of reaching a dialogue. A government that does not give a positive reply, surely a government which is divided in half on this issue, should, in my opinion, say: We have ended our role. Let us ask the people, through elections, whether they are inclined to peace or not.

[Ronen] In other words, you are for early elections as soon as possible.

[Rabin] If the prime minister's answer in Washington is negative, as half of the government thinks, we are wasting time. The problem should be decided by the people through elections. If we move the elections forward, there may still be a chance to exhaust the possibility of the Shultz initiative and reach peace negotiations.

[Lis] With whom will the negotiations be conducted? With whom can we hold a dialogue today? Do we have a body or a leadership with which we can talk today? Is the Jordanian king prepared to talk with us?

[Rabin] Look, I assume that the U.S. secretary of state is not a light-minded person. He definitely is a friend of Israel. He submitted to the Israeli Government a proposal constituting a single package, which he calls a memorandum of understanding. The very same memorandum of understanding was submitted to the Jordanian Government. The Egyptians, as well as the Syrians, are less relevant here. All these countries were asked to give a reply by mid-March.

This is not an ultimatum or a dictate. This is a proposal to which any sovereign country, including Israel, can give a positive or negative reply. I believe that a government in Israel that does not answer in the affirmative to this, particularly if it is split in half over this issue, should say: We have done a good job so far. We have completed our duties, and let us ask for the people's opinion before we miss this opportunity.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Rabin, under the present circumstances, is there any point at all to Prime Minister Shamir's trip to Washington? Let me add another question here...

[Rabin, interrupting] I am not a judge, nor do I want to express an opinion on the prime minister's trip. It was set and the prime minister was invited for a visit to Washington prior to all the latest developments. Therefore, I distinguish between the trip itself and the fact that the prime minister will be there at the time that the government's reply to the Shultz proposal should be made.

[Lis] In your opinion, how will the U.S. Administration react if Shamir indeed rejects the Shultz plan?

[Rabin] At the moment I am not interested in knowing what the U.S. Administration will do. What interests me is the question of what the state of Israel will do when after quite a few years it is faced with a consolidated U.S. proposal which makes peace negotiations on our eastern border possible.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Rabin, this position of yours is clear. Still, in your opinion, what will the U.S. Administration do if Israel rejects the plan?

[Rabin] Look, this question does not preoccupy me...

[Ben-Yishay, interrupting] But this question preoccupies the people in Israel.

[Rabin] What preoccupies me is what the state of Israel will do. This is what is important for me, and this is what we should decide on. What the Americans decide on is their business.

[Ben-Yishay] Let us then move on to what the state of Israel will do. Today marks 3 months of the uprising, the intifadha [in Arabic], in the territories, and there are no signs of it dying out. Does the current situation in the territories, as we have seen it in the reports broadcast on the television news, not indicate that the IDF, the defense establishment, has lost its deterrence in the territories? This may also point to our losing control and initiative in the territories.

[Rabin] I assume it is only natural and understandable that every Israeli wants every security problem to be solved even before it arises or as soon as it has arisen. The security problems of the state of Israel in the past, too, were divided into different types. The solution to some problems took a very long time. We had a war of attrition which lasted 1,000 days, during which we sustained numerous victims. We did not have an immediate solution to end it at the time. In less than 3 months we will be marking the sixth anniversary of the war we initiated in Lebanon. We had been stuck in Lebanon for 3 years when the present national unity government extricated most of the IDF from Lebanon. The problem has still not been solved.

Day by day or almost hour by hour the IDF and South Lebanese Army act to prevent the firing of Katyushas and the infiltration of terrorist squads from the Lebanese border. And today, for 3 months now we have been facing a type of a problem we had not experienced in the past, the problem of violence by a large population which is subject to our rule, which is not active in a terrorist fashion although terrorist elements are involved in it, which acts with violence but not with the weapons used by the terrorist organizations, except for Molotov cocktails, perhaps.

[Lis] Mr Rabin, you pointed to the war of attrition, the 1,000-day war. There was no civilian population involved there. There was a civilian population on the Egyptian side. In the present case we are dealing with a Jewish population located in Jewish settlements. In the present case we are dealing with a population, not with an army, and it seems that after 3 months the army is starting to feel harassed. We saw in the reports an army which handles fire extinguishers. The army has now introduced a new means, a gravel launcher. The solution seems to amount to a patchwork. It does not seem to herald any end.

[Rabin] I would like to tell you it is much easier to solve classical military problems, and much more difficult to cope with 1.4 million Palestinians who live in the territories—who, it seems, are following the method of violence without weapons and do not want our rule. The objective of the defense establishment and branches is to bring about a calm, not a solution. Furthermore, matters are being prolonged since it is necessary to handle a whole population, and it is impossible to use the main IDF weapon. The air force cannot operate here, nor can the armored corps or the artillery corps.

At best, the IDF soldiers can use their guns. We have to handle a case we have not experienced before, facing a large-scale population that acts with violence. The IDF should give an answer in the framework of the law, as is customary in the state of Israel, and the rules in the territories. This takes time.

[Ronen] In this context, Mr Rabin, let me remind you of remarks made by Minister Sharon this evening. Minister Sharon clearly says that the defense establishment has demonstrated helplessness in handling the territories. On another occasion this week he said that the defense establishment has failed in handling the territories. He said that his proposals for the situation had not been accepted. Are you prepared to discuss Sharon's proposals? Maybe he has a solution to this complicated situation.

[Rabin] I would not address myself to people. I know it is very easy to criticize. I saw how the Lebanese war was handled [under Sharon as defense minister], the great achievements we made then, and how it ended. I would not get into this. I believe...

[Ben-Yishay, interrupting] Mr Rabin, you are part of the Cabinet, after all. Does Sharon have real proposals?

[Rabin] Ask him. He is not being interviewed here.

[Lis] Perhaps we should move further. I am looking for the enterprising IDF, not the IDF that reacts to events that dictate matters in the area, the sophisticated IDF. All that we see is an IDF which is running and chasing women and children. We do not see the sophisticated IDF active in the area. We do not have a sophisticated solution. The feeling is that the soldiers are hunting the wind all day long.

[Rabin] Look, the problem would have been simpler had the entire area been populated by Arabs, without Jewish settlements. It would have been very easy to close it down, not handle problems of traffic arteries, indeed, to focus on taking the initiative regarding the large population centers. Nevertheless, the IDF has to give an answer to reality as it is. Therefore, priorities were simple. First, to handle violence, especially in the large Arab population centers.

Today, despite the pictures you have seen, most of the large Arab towns in Judaea and Samaria, as well as in Gaza, have been almost devoid of incidents. There are 450 villages in Judaea and Samaria. The IDF cannot be everywhere. Therefore, the second effort, after handling violence in the large population centers, concentrates on keeping the traffic arteries open. This uses up a third to a half of the IDF force. Instead of taking the initiative, the IDF has to guard traffic arteries.

[Lis] Let us go into the reality you described regarding the Arab villages. We have seen that the IDF operates there in the daytime. But those who have been operating there at night during the past few weeks are the settlers. We find them inside those villages where the IDF is absent. How do we handle the problem of civilians operating against other civilians?

[Ronen] A case in point was the incident in Ari'el last night, which could point to a shift in relations between the settlers and the Arab population.

[Rabin] I regard this as a very serious development that only exacerbates the problem. The moment the settlers take the law into their own hands, they force the IDF into simultaneously handling the Arabs and also into preventing deviations. This has already happened. Still, I think that the majority of the Jewish population of Judaea and Samaria accepts the principle that the IDF should handle the situation. Only a few disagree with this. Most of the leaders in the area, I believe, realize that they must operate within the bounds of the law, namely that although they must defend their settlements, protect themselves, and guard their movement in those areas, they must under no circumstances constitute an element operating on its own in the area.

[Lis] Perhaps we could take the example of Ari'el, a settlement not inhabited by ideologues who believe in settling the area, which has also experienced radicalization, with the locals going out to the streets as well?

[Rabin] Let me say this: I think this evidently stems largely both from political views and from impatience. When I think about the conduct of the northern settlements as seen over many years—even though they were suffering from Katyusha attacks, which they still experience occasionally, and although they knew that from time to time terrorist squads would try to enter from Lebanon—and I see that despite everything they still never conceived of or tried to do something about this, I think we have a problem with the settlements in the territories. They must acknowledge the fact that they live in an area which is still not part of sovereign Israel, an area which is currently the scene of violent activity staged by the inhabitants. They should be able to demonstrate forbearance and patience.

[Ronen] This merely serves to underline your statement that the settlements in the territories are a liability and a burden to Israel's security.

[Rabin] Look, Jewish settlement is a value in itself—depending on people's philosophies. I would certainly not support some of the settlements, but as defense minister and the person in charge of the IDF, I must guarantee the safety of all inhabitants—certainly the Jewish residents—wherever they may be. Nonetheless, I would like to say that 3 months have gone by, and yet not a single Israeli—soldier or civilian—has been killed as a result of the violent activity. In those 3 months, five Israeli soldiers fell while preventing terrorist infiltrations or attacks from the Lebanese border. Three civilians were killed in a murderous attack perpetrated by terrorist organizations in the form of the squad that commandeered a bus. In other words, all in all, those who still believe in settlement in Judaea and Samaria and are prepared to fight for it are being put to the test. Nevertheless, that test is still, relatively speaking, not one of the hardest ones Israel has experienced.

In sum, I would say that I believe that even though it is taking longer than we would like, we will effect calm and prove to the Palestinians that they will achieve nothing through violence.

[Ronen] When? Are we talking about months? Years?

[Rabin] It may take longer. Those who have no patience to deal with this problem... [changes thought] Not because I want to justify things, but I say that whatever can be done now should not be put off until tomorrow. Yet those who expect some magic formula, an instant solution—well, we have already seen what kind of solutions are offered by lightning military operations and know what they led us to.

[Ben-Yishay] That, Mr Rabin, is obvious. Over the last few weeks, there have been quite a few attempts to assassinate people whom the local population suspected, or knew, of collaborating with the defense establishment. This is a quite obvious symptom of the loss of control over the area—if such symptoms can actually be detected. What is the defense establishment doing to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and make sure that the Israeli governing setup in the territories is unharmed?

[Rabin] Look, our goal and highest priority first of all is to take action against violence in the large Arab population centers, and then to make sure that if violence erupts in remote sites, it should be dealt with once there are sufficient forces with sufficient strength that can be assigned to that area, to guarantee that the major highways remain open and to preserve the Arab governing system for the locals' own good.

There is no doubt that they also want to affect the local governing system detrimentally, and incidentally, they will be the chief sufferers from this. They will have to live with the outcome of this. If a mukhtar of some village is forced to resign, I am afraid that this would result in their having no water, no electricity, and no services.

[Ben-Yishay] This is self-evident, but you did not answer my question on the collaborators. Please do.

[Rabin] I have in mind all those who play an active role within the framework of the Israeli governing body, which is run by Israel. This is their own administrative system and it is chiefly made up of residents of the territories.

As for harming those suspected of somehow being linked to Israeli rule, the IDF is prepared for this, and in most cases—that is, after the Qabatiyah case—it arrived on the scene of the action in time to rescue the victim. The exception was a case in the Jericho area in which a policeman was murdered simply because he was a policeman.

[Ben-Yishay] The chief of staff mentioned a special unit that will be deployed for swift reaction.

[Rabin] One unit is not enough. We need a number of units on a higher alert in every region. We have them.

[Ronen] Mr Rabin, when you were interviewed on our program more than 2 months ago, you expressed the hope that perhaps the unrest in the territories would breed a new local Palestinian leadership. Can you see the first signs of such a leadership today?

[Rabin] It is too early to detect. And yet I do see one thing: that the PLO is afraid of this more than anything else. This is why in addition to its opposition to the Shultz initiative—and there is no question that the PLO is the primary opponent of the Shultz initiative, because the plan excludes

the PLO from the whole future political game—it also prevented the inhabitants of the territories from meeting with Shultz. Why? Because it feared that under the current circumstances, when it is clear that it was not the PLO that initiated the events in the territories or that it is leading them now, a leadership that would not bow to its authority would emerge.

[Lis] Mr Rabin, I would like to pursue Mr Ronen's question. Tomorrow marks 6 months since the administrative detention order against Faysal al-Husayni was issued. Will you cancel it?

[Rabin] You will see tomorrow, and do not worry.

[Lis] In that case, let me continue along the lines of the earlier question about the territories. We can notice a certain calm in today's reality. Nonetheless there was a deterioration over the past week, with a hand grenade being hurled at border policemen and a bomb thrown at soldiers in the Gaza Strip. What will happen the moment the inhabitants begin using live ammunition?

[Rabin] I would not like to predict whether things will indeed take such a turn. I think the inhabitants do not possess a lot of firearms, although they definitely do have a certain number of weapons. I believe that the moment the population's activity evolves from the type of activity we have seen over the past 3 months—namely, popular violence without the use of firearms, whose chief achievement as I see it, at least in terms of international public relations, is quite remarkable; although from what I hear from abroad, the degree of interest shown by the media in these affairs is waning—to terrorism, I believe they will forfeit their achievements. We have proved that we can handle terrorism. In fact, the population has embarked on this mode of operation which involves violence as a result of the inability of wars and terrorism to achieve their political aspirations.

[Ben-Yishay] Are you saying that you would not advise them to employ...

[Rabin, interrupting] I never said what I would suggest. I would like to remind everyone that terrorist activity results in more Israeli casualties than does violent popular activity. The latter gave them good public relations but no political gains, while through terrorism they could deal a harsher blow to us without achieving anything at all.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Rabin, the IDF soldiers deployed in the territories often find themselves forced to take action against the values they were brought up on. This causes them mental distress. This is a certain catch-22 in which the soldiers are entrapped. Can you see any way out of this situation?

[Rabin] Look, the IDF must adapt its mode of operation to the mission at hand. Policies are set by the government and the defense minister. Yet adjusting these to the means whereby the mission can be performed is something done by the IDF, though naturally under Cabinet supervision and within the boundaries of the law and moral values. It should be borne in mind that this is the type of confrontation other armies in the world usually do not have to deal with. This is a type of operation that can be classified somewhere between military and police activity.

It is the kind of action that truly demands that every soldier show a measure of steadfastness and belief in the importance of physical confrontation and in the effectiveness of looking straight into the eye of the one who hates you, noticing the full impact of the message conveyed by those eyes and the facial gestures that are made when he gets beaten up. This should be done. It is the type of confrontation we have never experienced before. I believe that the IDF personnel understand that this is an important mission of the first order, one vital for the future and well-being of Israel, and which will lead to calm.

[Ben-Yishay] Undoubtedly, Mr Rabin...

[Rabin, interrupting] They understand that this must be done within the confines of the law, and I think that all in all, under the prevailing circumstances, the IDF soldiers show both operational capability and restraint—as is required of them.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Rabin, there is no question that the soldiers are performing their duty. The question is whether you politicians are doing what you should do.

[Rabin] Meaning?

[Ben-Yishay] Are you seeking ways to extricate the soldiers from this situation so that it does not go on forever?

[Rabin] Look, the political problem of the peace process will only be resolved by way of negotiations. What the army is required to do does not involve solving the problem, only effecting calm. The army is doing that under difficult terms, engaging in activity we never knew before. I am convinced we will succeed.

[Ronen] One final sentence, Mr Rabin. Had the riots in the territories broken out today, what would you have done differently? What is the main lesson you have learned? What would you have done differently today than was done 3 months ago?

[Rabin] This is a hypothetical question. One of the strange things that happened, which I failed to assess correctly but which is still completely legal, is that I thought that the use of firearms would appear graver in the eyes of the world than the use of that special unique tool used by the police, the truncheon. I believe I found out, to my surprise, that the sensitivity shown by world public opinion to beatings, to physical contact, is greater than to the use of live ammunition.

[Ronen] Are you saying that if we shot...

[Rabin, interrupting] I did not say that. I said that if you ask me, from the point of view of the impact the events had on international awareness, I would say that I have discovered that the world shows greater sensitivity toward beatings than toward shootings.

[Ronen] I am sure this is not the only lesson we will learn from the events in the territories.

I would like to thank Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and my colleagues, Ron Ben-Yishay and Benin Lis. Good evening to our listeners at home. See you next week.

### 'Secret' Likud-Labor Contacts on July Elections

*TA100821 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The Alignment and the Likud have held initial secret contacts over the past 2 days in an attempt to coordinate early elections. In return for agreeing to elections in early July, the Likud is demanding an early update of the ballot lists. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar gives us the details:

Two senior Likud Knesset members [MK] met during the past 2 days with MK Rafi Edri, chairman of the Alignment Knesset faction, and started initial contacts toward a joint decision on early elections. The Likud MK's told Rafi Edri that they came without Prime Minister Yithzaq Shamir's knowledge, but would brief him on the talks. The Likud MK's told Edri they would be prepared to agree to elections in early July on condition that the ballot lists would be brought up to date before then to include 70,000 young voters. The Likud believes that a great majority of high school graduates support the right wing.

In a meeting between Edri and the foreign minister, Shim'on Peres gave the green light to begin joint discussions on early elections. It has been learned that the Alignment agrees to updating the ballot lists, believing that the voters will be divided up equally between the left and the right. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night that there are no contacts at this stage between the Alignment and the Likud on early elections:

[Begin Shamir recording] At this moment there are no such discussions, but I do not discount the possibility that some day we will discuss this. Such things have happened in the past. [end recording]

### Bar-Lev Confirms Hijackers Entered Through Egypt

*TA091515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The police affairs minister claims it is now clear that the three terrorists who perpetrated the attack in the Negev indeed entered via Egypt. Minister Bar-Lev said it seems the penetration was undetected due to weather conditions and topography.

He reported that the debriefings indicated that at least two victims of the attack were killed by terrorist fire. Eyewitness accounts indicate that the third hostage, a lady, was shot at by the terrorists even before our forces stormed into the bus. The debriefing is still under way, however, and it is still impossible to determine with any certainty that it was terrorist fire that killed her.

Minister Bar-Lev praised the performance of the police who chased the terrorists who commandeered the Renault, noting that they had difficulty hitting the terrorists because they feared they might hit passengers on vehicles that were also driving along the roads. Minister Bar-Lev was addressing reporters in Jerusalem.

### 'Intensified' IDF Activity Along Egyptian Border

*TA100740 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Mar 88 p 1*

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] The IDF has "intensified" its activity along the border with Egypt since Monday's terror attack in which three civilians and the three terrorists were killed, a military source said last night.

According to the source, the extra troops were engaged in a search for the terrorists' crossing point, to learn both how they entered Israel and what route they took afterwards.

The source could not verify whether there were more border patrols in the area, or whether other measures aimed at preventing infiltration had been increased.

The search was being conducted in the border area closest to the point where the terrorists commandeered an IDF vehicle, some three kilometres from Nafha Prison, the source said.

The source conceded that the document found on one of the three Fatah terrorists, identifying him as a resident of the Egyptian half of Rafah, was only circumstantial evidence that the squad had infiltrated from Sinai. But the source said it was easy to rule out the two alternative explanations of where the terrorists had come from.

The first possibility was that the terrorists had escaped from Nafha Prison, located on the Mizpe Ramon-Yeroham road in the heart of the Negev, but an inmate count had proved that false.

The source said it was also unlikely that the terrorists came from within Israel. The terrorists were clearly on their way north toward a more populated area, and it was illogical to assume that they had started in the centre of the country and bypassed targets there.

The PLO, when claiming responsibility for the attack on Monday night, stated that the attack originated within Israel, and did not involve infiltration from Egypt.

### Shomron Address on IDF Mission, Territories

*TA091707 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1305 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Address by Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, to Herzliyya high school students on 8 March, followed by Shomron's answers to students' questions—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shomron] As you know, the IDF's chief mission is to prepare and build itself up for the possibility of war. Despite the grief, the threat to

Israel's existence comes neither from terrorism nor from disturbances in the territories. The real threat to our existence is in the form of war against regular armies. That is why the IDF always, and under all circumstances, prepares and builds up for its real mission.

The second mission, of course, is combating terrorism. The various parameters of terrorism include penetration of our borders—primarily in the north, as you know, as well as from the sea and by air. There was one case where they attempted to enter Israel via a hang glider. There were other attempts involving hot-air balloons. Then there is terrorism emanating from Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and even from inside the boundaries of Israel.

There are additional bodies who cooperate with the IDF in waging this war against terrorism. They include the various branches of the security forces and the police.

Recently the IDF has had to engage in another mission—the violent disturbances in the territories—which for the past 20 years assumed smaller dimensions despite some ups and downs. In accordance with international law, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are under a military government. Therefore, the army is the sole body authorized to operate there. This not only entails enforcing order, but includes the provision of food, education, and everything else. We are in fact a kind of government in charge of everyday life, and of course also order, in the territories.

Recently, the IDF has been dealing with what immediately strikes everyone—because normally one does not see how an army prepares for war, although many exercises and lots of training, some of them very tough, do take place. The visible part is the war against terrorism, primarily in Lebanon, but also, as we know from the latest incident... [changes thought] Naturally, part of the IDF's training program, once we were forced to combat terrorism such as terrorism from the north, forced us to test the troops and their commanders by their operational activity.

This is very tough and often dangerous activity. We judge the soldiers and their commanders according to their ability to stand up to these missions, plan them correctly, and administer them properly. I am definitely pleased with the standard of the soldiers and the young commanders whose experience does not include a role in the big wars of the past, but whose ability to think about the job at hand and the courage they show to me seem fine.

The terrorist act yesterday and earlier penetration attempts—although I do not know exactly when they infiltrated Israel—constitute part of a very long series of acts of terror. Recently, all the attempts except this one failed, naturally, whether they were made by sea—I am sure you are familiar with the recent case—or via the northern border. We do not always report about aborted attempts, yet we generally manage to foil all of them. It was never possible, and still is not, to guarantee the hermetic sealing off of the borders.

There is no place in the world that can be completely sealed off, certainly not in Israel, which has such long borders and which has [Arab] inhabitants in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Under these circumstances, it is not easy to close off the border. Still, it is a fact that the success we score is substantial, although there have been failures in the past.

You are still young, so I do not think you can remember Ma'alot [where 21 schoolchildren were killed in 1974]; the bus along the coastal road, [in which 11 were killed in 1978] or as it is better known, the bloody bus; and many other very grave incidents involving many casualties, some of them even schoolchildren. This is a long and difficult war. At the same time, we will withstand it—all of us, all the people of Israel. Much as this is painful, it does not involve a threat to our existence and we have been able to withstand it.

In the latter case, that of the second squad that penetrated Israel through Egypt—approximately 1 month ago we captured a squad in almost exactly the same location—the terrorists managed to enter Israeli territory and reach the road near Mizpe Ramon. [passage omitted]

This type of activity is part of the terrorist acts through which the PLO wants to manifest its involvement in what is currently happening in the form of violent disturbances. One way for the PLO to show its participation in, or even leadership of, these events is by demonstrating that it can simultaneously activate terrorist forces against Israel. [passage omitted]

In such cases, where terrorist acts involving hostages are perpetrated for the purpose of reaching a bargaining position, the central problem is how to exterminate the terrorists without causing any bodily damage to the hostages, and how to do so with minimal effect on those held captive. You must bear in mind that the terrorists carried loaded weapons and that it takes only a fraction of a second to pull the trigger. In this specific case, we had a special IDF unit trained for such operations, and also used a border police unit. [passage omitted]

It is hard for us to determine whether the casualties were hit by our forces. We believe there is a good chance that this was not the case. Clearly, of the three civilians, the terrorists killed the man even earlier, although I do not know why. We heard those shots. Apparently they also hit at least one of the women inside the bus, too. In the debriefings, we are trying to determine precisely who shot them, but this, naturally, is quite difficult.

So much for yesterday's attack, which I think pleased them because they actually managed to enter Israeli territory and hit several civilians, even if this resulted in their death. From our point of view, it should be clear to the terrorists that we will hit them; that of course we will try to stop them from entering our country; that we will try to strike at them even before they penetrate; and that we will do so even beyond the borders as well as along the border whenever they try to enter. When they do manage to infiltrate, we will take swift action inside Israel. This is as far as yesterday's operation. I would now like to allow you to present your own questions.

[Question] I believe the current situation in the territories forces the soldiers to carry out missions that appear to contradict the IDF's original goals. Do you think this will affect the IDF in the future, and if so, in what direction?

[Shomron] Look, the IDF does not choose its missions. It carries out operations that are all national missions of the first order. When the problem is in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, this is where the IDF executes its job. It cannot choose or say that it does not like the job or feels uncomfortable with it. There is a certain gap or discrepancy between the desire of all of us to resolve this problem quickly with a military force—and the army is very strong—and the understanding that armies act within the confines of the law. This law expresses a nation's norms and moral code.

A country's law is a manifestation of how the country sees itself internally as well as its idea of how it should be perceived in the eyes of the outside world. Therefore, an army, being a tool serving the country, operates exclusively within the confines of the law. Since the civilians in the territories are unarmed—I am not talking about exceptional cases—the law involving actions against them is clear. Certainly, if we used weapons—and every soldier has his personal arms that can be fired, thus killing very easily and quickly—this would be against the law. Consequently, the only path we have is to abide by the law. This is difficult, and the soldiers find it difficult because the disturbances are violent—and yet we cannot break the law.

If you ask me how this affects the soldiers, I would say there is a measure of frustration. Every soldier is equipped with personal weapons which he may and does use for self-defense whenever he suspects danger, but does so only in accordance with the regulations. If there no danger, if the mission involves dispersing a demonstration or dealing with violence or any kind of disturbance, the soldier may operate only according to the law. This, undoubtedly, presents limitations. [passage omitted]

Apart from some exceptions, which I believe are few, the soldiers operate within this framework. They understand the limitations. Therefore, I do think that beyond the fact that they have to deal with such events, which is an unpleasant task in itself, there is no problem. They realize that this mission should be carried out within the limitations imposed by our legal system. [passage omitted]

I do not see this as affecting the IDF, except for the simple fact that while they are dealing with these duties, the units cannot train or prepare for the main mission. But here, too, we will find the appropriate answers to compensate those who need the training. [passage omitted]

[Question] Is Syria likely to use gas in the next war, if it takes place; and are we prepared for this eventuality?

[Shomron] I could not tell you with any certainty whether Syria would use gas in the next war. I would like you to know that even in their past wars with us, the Arab countries possessed means of gas warfare. As far back as in 1967, Egypt possessed gas. Of course, in 1973, during the Yom Kippur War, the Arab countries possessed gas. Naturally, this was the case also during the Lebanon campaign. But they never used it, and there is a reason for this. This type of weapon invites very harsh reaction. Of course, Syria knows, or at least assumes, that we have the means to react very sharply to activity against civilians in the rear. Also, as a result of this, we constantly deter the Arabs from using this weapon.

Therefore, although I cannot tell whether the Syrians would use this weapon, deterrence is conveyed all the time. It is true that the issue made headlines recently because according to reports and open information the Syrians are trying to mount this gas weapon also on surface-to-surface missiles which can actually strike at our hinterland quite easily. These missiles do not even have to overcome our antiaircraft deployment or our aircraft. They can hit us. Basically, the use of gas on those missiles will be determined by how effective our deterrent is and will depend on the kind of answers we can provide for such usage. This deterrence has been effective, at least so far. I hope that beyond the specific responses we have, deterrence will prevent this weapon from being employed. [passage omitted]

[Question] The feeling recently has been that the attitude toward soldiers who behaved unethically, which is to say not in accordance with IDF policy, was somewhat lenient and that they should not have been released until after the processes have been completed—in short, that the attitude toward them was not severe enough. Why is this, what will happen now, and what effects will this have?

[Shomron] Oddly enough, the criticism I have encountered is by and large the opposite, namely that soldiers who did break the law are being treated too harshly—they are detained, put on trial, and actually even thrown to the dogs or forsaken after being given orders that are very difficult to carry out. I would say that the criticism I have heard is more along these lines, less so along the line you expressed.

I would like to say the following: The IDF will not forsake its soldiers. When we issue orders, we are responsible for them—both for their execution and their results. We back the soldiers in fulfilling their duties.

The law regarding what is permissible and what is not is very clear. Yet we all know that reality, or life, is far more complex, and that it is usually very hard to establish clear guidelines when seconds, considerations, and distance all play a part in this game. Consequently, the law is always accompanied by an interpretation, and the courts are constantly busy interpreting according to the specific circumstances of the incidents.

Our interpretation insofar as the soldiers are concerned is liberal, and those soldiers who have been put on trial are only those who exceeded the gray or unclear area. We do not deal with them too strictly. We never have, because we assume that perhaps the regulations may not have been 100 percent clear, or perhaps in their assessment of the situation there was a measure of misunderstanding in judging the specific incident they were involved in, and that in any case they can be understood. Therefore, whenever an incident occurs, we do not search the gray area too deeply. We only do so when a crime has been committed. [passage omitted]

If a demonstration breaks out some place in Judaea or Samaria it is filmed. But obviously the camera cannot capture all the parts of Judaea and Samaria where quiet

prevails, where people drive along the roads safely and children go to schools in Jewish settlements. Every day thousands of vehicles travel along the roads to school, for extracurricular activity, or for work in Israel. The local residents, by the thousands—approximately 100,000 of them—leave for work in Israel and come back. Nearly the entire system functions despite the horrible riots we see on television. Therefore, putting everything in the right proportion and given the circumstances, life is proceeding normally also for the Israelis living in the territories. They travel along the roads everywhere. Let us bear this in mind.

Nevertheless, this situation warrants very intensive military intervention which we would like to end. We want to restore order—although I do not know if the situation 3 months ago can actually be called precisely that—or if we can go back to the situation that prevailed 3 months ago.

What kind of effect can we have on the situation and how can we change it? First, by deploying the IDF in the area. The locals fear the IDF, and know that even if the IDF leaves the area it can reenter it. We are constantly improving in this respect, by introducing new measures, for instance. Also, the units learn how to act. I think we are in the midst of a process of constantly improving so that the same units can obtain better results, or that smaller units can achieve the same results.

Second, there is the economic plane. The workers from the territories are closely interlinked with Israel. As an illustration, let me say the following: Between 100,000 and 120,000 inhabitants of the territories are employed in Israel. If I take even a low salary as an average and multiply it by 12 months, I get $1 billion. This is money that comes from Israel and goes into the territories to improve their standard of living. And this is without mentioning the businessmen or others.

Clearly, without that money, the inhabitants' predicament would be very difficult. They must go to work. In other words, for them to forfeit this dependence on us—such as when we impose a curfew or when they refuse to go to work—would mean that they will have a very hard time. I therefore believe that the economic need, the economic time-out they can afford to take, and the army's presence and its ability to act swiftly and deter—all this makes me, for one, believe that in the long run we will bring about a far calmer situation than now.

One should also remember that the political process in the area, even though it may not have been launched officially, nevertheless exists, and in the first stage stimulates a rise in disturbances. The locals want to prove that their cause is always topical. The visit of the U.S. secretary of state and other representatives to the area for the purpose of holding meetings actually raised the level of tension and increased the number of incidents. Still, as I said, the IDF and the locals' economic dependence will calm the situation down. [passage omitted]

[Question] Due to the media's unbalanced portrayal of the situation, will the IDF be pleased if the territories are closed off to the media? And why was the Arab collaborator not given proper assistance?

[Shomron] First of all, regarding the media: The IDF would have liked it very much if the territories were simply closed off to the media. Yet the subject of the media is far more complex. I am not talking about the fact that the closure of the area would imply that Israel, a free country, is closing itself off to the media—which would cause a problem in itself. Let us take the territories alone and deal with the practical aspects. It is impossible to seal off an area to the media. If we take Judaea and Samaria, the number of roads used by the tens of thousands of media staffers or others going to work and the Israelis who come and go, there is no doubt in my mind that the media could easily mix in the traffic in this large area.

All they have to do is conceal their cameras. They would be able to enter the area. It is impossible to close an area off only to the media. The law stipulates that areas can be closed off by declaring them a closed military zone, which means that everyone is banned from them. Yet the media alone cannot be excluded from an area. That is why even if a decision is to close the area off completely, it would be very difficult to make sure that no one enters it.

Second, the pictures taken inside the area are often unpleasant, and sometimes the very fact that they are taken stimulates unrest. Yet had the media been banned from the area, I believe exaggerated rumors from the territories would have been generated. If you recall, in the beginning there was talk about hundreds dead and other atrocities, such as that we were killing women and children and were using dumdum bullets. In the absence of the media, or if the area is closed off to the media, this is the kind of information that emanates from the areas. Even if we claimed that this was not true, everyone would say that this was a lie. They would argue: You closed the area off to do that! I therefore fear that from the practical point of view, the total closure of the area would be damaging, not beneficial.

On the other hand, there is the option—which we use—for the local unit, whenever it believes the media are interrupting its operations in the area, to declare the area a closed military zone. Thus the media cannot enter it. We have lowered the decision-making level on the matter to that of the lieutenant colonels, or battalion commanders, so that in those places where the media are in the way they can be banned. This is legal. But we prefer the lesser of the two evils, namely to allow the media to enter the area, and in specific cases where they interfere with operations, prevent them from shooting film or arousing agitation by their mere presence. This is my answer to the question on the media.

The other question had to do with the Qabatiyah collaborator. Look, calling a person a collaborator already brands him as a traitor. These are people who maintain proper working relations with us. Some of them, who pass on information to us, are undercover agents, anonymous. There are others, like the person who was killed, who regularly cooperate openly with Israeli authorities. In the past it was common practice to harass such people, and there were murders in the past, too. This also included mayors who were assassinated. Others on a much lower level, who also cooperated with us, received similar treatment.

The truth is that under the current circumstances, with the disturbances in the territories, whenever someone is killed for allegedly cooperating with us—even if this is not true—it is somewhat contagious and could recur in other places, too. In this specific instance—which was indeed grave because he could not be reached and rescued although the circumstances at the time were not as clear as they are now in hindsight, and we were not sure whether the man was not actually ready to surrender and hand in his weapon—the mob did not get the right message and people gathered around him. He was frightened and began to shoot. After he killed a child and wounded others, he was attacked. The state of affairs was not all that clear to us. That is why there was a delay, but this is not to say that the outcome was not grave. Certainly both in accordance with the regulations and our training, we are called upon to interfere immediately each time this happens, whether it involves a local resident or an Israeli who finds himself in a certain place. We must rescue that person at once.

[Question] Can the status quo along the Lebanese border—namely a narrow strip of land with a small number of soldiers and casualties every month—be considered something that should be maintained for a long time to come and which should not be altered or improved? Or if it can be improved, what can you suggest?

[Shomron] Usually, judging by the situation at hand, one weighs the possibilities and the alternatives that are feasible. The choice is rarely between your desire and the alternatives. I would like to have absolute quiet in Lebanon. Actually, Lebanon is not a state as such. It has no central body. There is no one to sign agreements with. There is no one who could be held responsible. As a result, the only way for us to secure the north and the settlements there is to maintain a certain security strip. Otherwise we would be confronted with daily infiltrations. In order to reduce the number of troops there, we managed to reach a state of affairs in which in the south, in the area where Lebanese citizens reside—that is, people who bear Lebanese identity cards—they also have their own army.

It is in the interest of that army to guard the locals and their welfare. We back this army. This, then, is the most economical way, given the circumstances. It would be better if we were not attacked from Lebanon, but as long as this is not the case—and in the foreseeable future I cannot envision that the different bodies, including the PLO, Hizballah, all sorts of religious resistance, and the Islamic Jihad would stop this—this is the most effective way. Of all the alternatives we have, this one will be pursued, as I cannot see a better answer at the moment. [passage omitted]

## Authorities Deny Shin Bet Abuse in Hamdan Case

*TA101422 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The contention raised by the Hamdan family that 'Awwad Hamdan's death was caused by an illegal violent investigation carried out by Shin Bet personnel is totally unfounded. The above was stated in a sworn affidavit to the Supreme Court submitted a short while ago by the State Attorney's Office. The State Attorney's Office was required to show cause why the medical records on Hamdan's death should not be handed over to his relatives.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack notes that the Attorney General's Office is prepared to submit the medical records only, maintaining that the conclusions in the criminal case in which the Shin Bet staffer is to be tried for reportedly causing Hamdan's death through negligence still need to be clarified.

## Commentary Analyzes Ultrarightist Attack on IDF

*TA041125 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 88 p B1*

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Right Against the IDF"]

[Text] The ultrarightists' attack on the IDF was expected, almost inevitable, and stems from the fact that the IDF cannot do what many right-wingers believed—wrongly, of course—an army can do during a civilian uprising. The ultraright is still toying with the idea that Israel can forcibly solve most of the problems arising from the conflict with the Palestinians. Suddenly they are finding out that putting down a civilian uprising does not resemble an operation to release hostages from terrorists or of knocking off terrorist leaders. The IDF "cannot deliver the goods" the ultraright expected it to deliver, because Israel is not similar to Iraq, which is brutally repressing the rebelling Kurds by means of genocide.

It is not surprising that the ultraright is disappointed. The attack on the IDF indicates the ultraright's frustration with the events in the territories, just as the idea of transferring the Arab population from the territories indicates the failure of the right's ideology, which actually stated that the Palestinians would accept the fact that they are destined to live under occupation forever. The ultraright believes that the reasons and causes of the Palestinian uprising in the territories are purely external. The right is behaving as though the Palestinians do not exist and as though they do not have their own desires and aspirations.

In the beginning they blamed the opposition for being responsible for the disturbances. Later they attacked the media as the guilty party. Now it is the IDF's turn, and tomorrow they will probably direct their rage against the Shin Bet. The fault always lies with somebody else, never in the objective situation.

Moreover, the ultraright regards IDF officers as being too liberal in their handling of the rioters. They are regarded as preventing the soldiers from using brutal force against the Arabs. The IDF senior echelon is too liberal for the taste of the ultraright, being too respectful toward the rules of democracy, too soft on the media, and too zealous in guarding the liberal image of Israel. Indeed, this is true if we compare the IDF General Branch, as a group, to the ministers constituting the Israeli Government.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, is the symbol for all of this. I too feel he was mistaken when he approved the detention of a sergeant in a kibbutz dining room on Friday night, in front of the entire kibbutz, while at the same time releasing two Arab stone throwers. However, Mitzna' is carrying out one of the most difficult and sensitive jobs in the IDF with great success. He is the target of the ultrarightists' attacks also because Ari'el Sharon has a personal account to settle with him from the Lebanon war. In fact, however, the target is not Mitzna' as an individual, rather the entire IDF, the senior command level, and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

The hints regarding the IDF's failure to put down the uprising could be heard even in the remarks of Prime Minister Shamir. In the beginning he claimed that everything was caused by the hang glider attack. Later he claimed that had the uprising been quelled immediately, Washington would not have rushed to prepare a new peace initiative. This is tantamount to saying that the IDF's failure caused the initiative—first the failure in the Nahal camp in the north, and later the failure in not concentrating enough forces and implementing the iron fist policy during the first stage of the uprising.

Later there were exchanges between Minister Moda'i and Chief of Staff Shomron during the Cabinet session, from which it could be construed that there was dissatisfaction with the IDF's performance. The message was clear enough. It is worthwhile to remember, however, that the man who occupied Defense Minister Rabin's place during the beginning of the disturbances was Prime Minister Shamir. It was up to him to decide whether to strengthen the forces quickly. Regarding the accusation itself, it is possible that the use of more forces during the initial stage would have shortened the first stage of the uprising, but it would not have removed the uprising's basic causes. The second stage would have erupted shortly afterward.

The peak was reached in the attacks on Maj Gen Mitzna'—in fact on the IDF and the chief of staff, who approves Mitzna''s actions—during the last Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, which was attended by Dan Shomron and other senior officers. Knesset Members [MK's] Magen, Shalita, and Goldstein publicly slandered Mitzna' without giving him the opportunity to defend himself, and even proposed firing him. They are certainly aware of the fact that Sharon opposed promoting Mitzna' to major general and was against appointing him to head the Central Command. Even at that stage there was political involvement in a military appointment. These MK's are playing follow the leader, the leader being Sharon. It should be recalled that Mitzna' was not Sharon's first target. Sharon has almost specialized in acting against chiefs of staff.

He angrily acted against chiefs of staff Hayim Bar-Lev, David El'azar, and Mordekhay Gur. It is no coincidence that Maj Gen Refa'el Vardi resigned his post in the defense establishment when Menahem Begin decided to appoint Sharon defense minister.

The only Likud MK who stood out and did not join the chorus was Dan Meridor, who after the session warned about the actions of his colleagues, saying that they undermined confidence in the IDF. This undermining started several months ago when MK Ge'ula Kohen called for purging leftist officers from the IDF and Shin Bet. Now several other MK's have continued with this dangerous work.

## More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

### Military Court Orders Detention

*TA091727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The Lod military court has ordered brothers Musa and 'Ali Darwish from the village of 'Isawiyah, who are accused of having operated the printing house in East Jerusalem where leaflets were printed calling for the uprising in the territories, to be detained until the end of their legal proceedings. Another four people have been charged in connection with this affair.

### 3 Killed, Over 12 Wounded 9 Mar

*TA091837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Excerpts] At least three Arabs were reported killed in the administered territories and more than a dozen others injured in violent clashes with the army today. The army spokesman so far confirms two deaths, and says it is checking the other reports. Steve Rodan wraps up the day:

[Begin recording] Palestinian activists wanted a day full of violence to mark 3 months since the beginning of the unrest, and they got it. The morning started off peaceful but tense in many areas of the administered territories. Ramallah was one example. Stones blocked many sideroads, teenagers were loitering around Ramallah hospital but still no violence. By this afternoon, the tension broke. [passage omitted]

Then came the reports of casualties, many of them not confirmed by the army although reported by local and hospital sources. In the village of Silwad near Ramallah an Arab resident was reported killed. Military sources say a violent demonstration broke out, and residents attacked soldiers with stones and iron bars. The army opened fire. In Turmus 'Ayya, also near Ramallah, the army clashed with residents; a 19-year-old was killed. The army says it is investigating the circumstances of his death. There is a report confirmed by hospital sources that a 25-year-old man was killed during a violent demonstration in the village of Sammu', south of Hebron. The army says it is checking the report.

Disturbances were reported as well in the villages of Biddu, Sarah, Yatta, the Tulkarm refugee camp. In the Gaza Strip, disturbances were reported in Gaza City and Khan Yunus, and there were also reports of injuries. All of this, as a full commercial strike was observed in the territories, most workers stayed home, stores were closed, and public transportation shut down. [end recording]

## Arabs, Settlers Clash in Hebron

*TA100548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] There were serious disturbances last night in Hebron. Scores of local residents congregated in Police Square between midnight and 0200, hurling stones and setting up roadblocks. Hebron Jews said the Arabs attacked their homes, and that they defended their families with the help of people from Qiryat 'Arba. Rabbi Moshe Levinger told this to our correspondent Moti Amir.

A military source told our correspondent that a jeep in which an IDF officer was driving reached the site of the riot. The officer was attacked, fired in the air, and when this failed, he fired at the rioters, wounding two of them. An IDF unit arrived at the site and began to disperse the rioters. A chase ensued, which continued until all the rioters had dispersed.

An IDF spokesman told our correspondent that there was no attempt to attack Jewish homes. Arab sources claim that the entire episode began with the burning of a car belonging to a local Arab.

## IDF Claims Settlers Not Target

*TA100811 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The IDF denies the Jewish settlers' version of the events in Hebron, according to which Arabs tried to attack Bet Hadassah and the Avraham Avinu Synagogue during last night's riots. Here are the comments by the unnamed commander of the region:

[Begin recording] At each site, something like 20 to 30 rioters ran amok, burning tires and car wrecks, blocking axes leading to the neighborhoods—not the main arteries—with dozens of stone barriers and rocks, and crying out: Allah is great. We arrived quickly and started to disperse them. In the course of the activity it was felt that a life-threatening situation had evolved and we were forced to fire at the rioters' feet. Consequently, three youths were slightly wounded in the legs, and two women were taken to the hospital after suffering from the tear gas.

It is important to stress that there were no attacks whatsoever on Jewish homes. I believe the activity was not aimed at Jewish homes. No main roads were blocked, only out of the way neighborhoods, where the rioters tried to goad the army into a confrontation with them, which is in fact what happened. [end recording]

## Janin Bookkeepers Tax Boycott

*TA091111 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Mar 88 p 7*

[Report by Fi'az 'Abas]

[Text] Most bookkeepers in the Janin area decided at an emergency meeting to stop handing over tax returns to the income tax authorities in Israel. They acted in consultation with their clients and as part of the national uprising in the territories.

One of the bookkeepers said that the decision was aimed at harming tax revenues. He believes this initiative has been taken by bookkeepers in the Janin area alone.

## King Husayn Returns From Visits to Iraq, Kuwait

*JN091725 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1600 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation returned to Amman this evening after a working visit to Iraq and Kuwait. His majesty held talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad. The talks dealt with urgent Arab issues, particularly the Middle East developments in light of the popular uprising in the occupied territory.

Talks also dealt with the latest U.S. moves in the region and the talks held with the U.S. secretary of state. Discussions also included the Gulf war developments and the Iranian escalation of the war of the cities.

His majesty explained Jordan's position on the U.S. endeavors concerning peace in the Middle East. He affirmed that an international conference is the only means of solving the Middle East problem, taking into account the unified Arab position based on the Amman summit resolutions.

He was received by Crown Prince Hasan, Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi, House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz, the deputy prime minister and minister of education, the ministers, the chief of the Army staff, and senior civilian and military officials.

Returning with the king were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, Army Commander in Chief Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His Majesty sent the following cable to President Saddam Husayn when he left Baghdad earlier today:

Dear President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him and make him victorious.

As I leave the beloved land of Iraq, I am pleased to send to my brother and through him to the fraternal Iraqi people my sincere love and gratitude for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to me and my delegation during our visit to proud Baghdad. I am pleased to return to Jordan fully reassured about the strong position of Iraq in facing the aggression of the unjust Iranian regime.

Under your inspired leadership, Iraq has continued to be the source of our pride, thanks to your achievements and sacrifices in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The responsibilities of war and defense have not prevented your country from active development. This is borne out by the great advances of the Iraqi Armed Forces in the field of military industry, coupled with the courage and determination which will achieve decisive victory for Iraq, God willing.

I pray God to preserve and take care of you.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn.

## Leaves Amman for Damascus

*JN101219 Amman Domestic Service in English*
*1200 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a working visit to Syria.

His majesty will hold talks with Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad dealing with urgent Arab issues, particularly the latest developments in the area following the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and bilateral relations.

His majesty the king was received at the airport by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and a number of Cabinet ministers.

His majesty is accompanied by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the court minister.

Earlier, his majesty the king was seen off at Amman airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and a number of high-ranking officials.

## Dudin Cited on Joint Committee Discussions

*JN091904 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
*1700 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support the steadfastness of people in the occupied territory began in Amman today under the chairmanship of Marwan Dudin, Jordanian minister of occupied territories affairs, and Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, who arrived in Amman Monday evening [7 March].

Dudin told our radio that the committee's agenda includes proposals supported by figures and studies to finance projects concerning various education, health, social development, and emergency expenditures. Expenditures will also cover efforts to maintain the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the housing units which are being exposed to confiscation and destruction.

The technical work subcommittee held prolonged preparatory talks yesterday and this morning before the holding of the first working session.

This is the 37th session of the committee which was formed in 1978 as one of the channels of coordination between the Jordanian Government and the PLO to ensure the expenditure of committee funds which are collected from a number of Arab states.

Recently, Saudi Arabia contributed $19 million to the committee fund. It is expected that the committee will be able to make the proper decisions on points on the agenda, according to the Jordanian minister.

## AL-DUSTUR Notes Meeting

*JN100727 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*
*10 Mar 88 p 1*

[Text] Amman—The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering the people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland yesterday held a lengthy meeting under the chairmanship of Marwan Dudin, minister of the occupied territories afffairs, and Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to discuss ways to spend $19 million, a sum representing the second and third installments of the Saudi contribution to the committee's fund for 1986, on health, educational, and social projects in the occupied territories. The meetings will resume today.

## JORDAN TIMES Questions Timing of Bus Attack

*JN091847 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English*
*9 Mar 88 p 4*

[Editorial: "A Problematic Act"]

[Text] The attack on an Israeli bus Monday which resulted in the death of three Israelis and the three Arab assailants is a problematic act—not because Palestinians should not use violence to fight the Israelis, but because the use of violence should be skillfully timed and targeted as part of a coherent strategy in pursuit of a clear goal.

We have always seen the use of indiscriminate violence as an inevitable element within the Palestinian quest for national rights. The Israelis were the first to introduce organised and methodical terror tactics into Palestine in the early years of this century, when they terrorised both the British and the Palestinians.

Terror has been practiced regularly since then by individual Israelis, small political groups and the state itself. The Palestinians resorted to international terror in the late 1960s and much of the 70s and 80s, and at one point it could have been argued that the desperate resort to terror caught the world's attention and generated an international recognition that the Palestine problem needed to be resolved equitably.

The striking fact of the Palestinian uprising of the past three months has been its largely non-lethal tactics, in contrast with Israeli tactics which have resulted in the death of over 85 Palestinians, mostly young men and women. No single political dynamic has generated as much international and Arab—and even some Israeli—support for the Palestinian cause as the present uprising.

The resort to attacks such as that against the bus is likely to detract from the genuine political support that the Palestinians have earned through their grass roots uprising. The Palestinians and their Arab supporters are engaged in a delicate diplomatic effort that may or may not result in a meaningful international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The results we achieve will depend on the judicious application of political pressure, diplomatic skills and grass roots action. We feel the bus attack was inappropriately timed, and we fear that it is likely to detract from the political gains that have been secured by the struggle and the deaths of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

History suggests that there is a time and place to use such tactics, but this was not one of them. The uprising of the Palestinians has radically upset the complacency and the politically sterile status quo that dominated the region in recent years.

It has galvanised Americans, Arabs, Europeans, Soviets and even some Israelis to consider new and more meaningful ways to address the fundamental national demands of the Palestinians. Action by any Arab party should fortify the gains of the uprising, not dampen them.

**Hubayqah Group Member Assassinated in Al-Biqa'**
*NC100716 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] According to security sources in Al-Biqa', gunmen assassinated Samir Jiryis Mu'awwad, an official of the Hubayqah group, on the I'at-Dayr al-Ahmar Road. A Syrian soldier, who was a passenger in the dead man's car, was also wounded.

**Al-Jumayyil on Shultz Plan, Hostages, Syria**
*LD091926 Paris International Service in French 1315 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Interview with President Amin al-Jumayyil on the "Press Club" program presented by Edouard Dor, with Julia Fikachi of LA CROIX; Jean-Louis Mazorati of VSD weekly; Denis Siffert of the CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY; Dominique Roque, Paris Radio correspondent in Beirut; and Gerard Grisebecque of Radio France International—recorded in Al-Jumayyil's residence at Bikfayya; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dor] First of all, Mr President, thank you for receiving us in your residence at Bikfayya, about 20 km northeast of Beirut, for this "Press Club" program on Radio France International. Bikfayya has been your family's home since the 16th century. [passage omitted]

Here to interview you today are Julia Fikachi of LA CROIX; Jean-Louis Mazorati from the weekly VSD; Denis Siffert from the CENTRAL PRESS AGENCY; Dominique Roque, our correspondent in Beirut, and Gerard Grisebecque from Radio France International.

First of all, Mr President I would like to talk about the regional news. Whatever happens in any of the countries of the Near or Middle East, there are always immediate repercussions in neighboring states. The hot news is, of course, what is now happening in the Arab territories occupied by Israel. You have had brushes, if I may say so, with the Palestinians. In Lebanon they have constituted a veritable state within a state. How do you view what is happening at the moment in the Left Bank and in Gaza?

[Al-Jumayyil] [Passage omitted] Well, it was a good idea to ask the question by stating that we have had quite a few problems with the Palestinians in Lebanon. However, I would state immediately that in Lebanon we have been able to separate things. We knew how to distinguish between the Palestinian cause—this is a just cause—and the actions of the Palestinians here on Lebanese territory.

Well, we were against the actions of some Palestinians, against the excesses of some Palestinians, but not against the Palestinian cause itself. This is why we put a fairly rapid end to these clashes—or at least tried to find a solution to our conflict with the Palestinians. We have been very clear and precise on the fact that we are for the Palestinian cause, but are against the state within a state. We are against the excesses of the Palestinian resistance in our country, but are for the Palestinian cause, as it is a just cause.

In regards to what is happening in the Left Bank, well, this is really appalling. Israel and the world should understand that nothing can be solved through force. [passage omitted] The solution to the problem is certainly not with force, certainly not by killing or imprisoning people, certainly not by breaking elbows, hands, arms, feet or heads of the Palestinians, or even at the moment, photographers and people from the press. The problem certainly cannot be solved in this way. It can only be solved in the context of concerted international action. The big powers must agree on a solution, as the antagonists themselves are rather stuck. [passage omitted]

The only solution will be through concerted international action, either in the context of the United Nations, or the Reagan-Gorbachev summits, or in the context of other initiatives. However, this concerted international action must presents everyone with an accomplished pact. A very energetic attitude from the superpowers and the international community is also needed. As I have said, in the context of the United Nations, an international conference is needed to make all sides understand that the only fair solution is one which gives, first of all, Israel the right to live in peace, but also the right of the Palestinians to have their homeland [preceding word spoken in English].

[Roque] Mr President, there is a current U.S.initiative under way to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict. Do you think the U.S. ideas, which make provision for the opening of direct talks between Israel and the Arab countries by means of an international conference, can be accepted by the Arab countries? And is Lebanon included in the new U.S. ideas?

[Al-Jumayyil] First of all I hasten to say that Lebanon is a part of these talks. Lebanon is one the agenda and on the table for any negotiations which affect the Middle East. First of all, Lebanon has a large and substantial number of Palestinians on its territory—we have around 300-400 thousand Palestinians. We have joint borders with Israel, which are not always very peaceful. We have a real Israeli invasion of a part of our territory. After all, there are a few thousand Israeli soldiers stationed on our territory in the border area, rather, in the south of the country. Lebanon is also part of the Arab community which has been in conflict with Israel for quite some time—since 1948.

Now, with regard to the Shultz initiative, we can hope things will get better. On one hand the truce in Lebanon could help things. There are beginnings of a dialogue, things are getting a bit better, people are making contact again. We can also hope for some positive development on the level of national reconciliation and peace at home. That is just one aspect. This encourages the Americans; moreover, in the Shultz mission, the subject of Lebanon is still on the agenda.

On the other hand, in the area of Israeli-Arab relations, this revolution of stones in the Left Bank could also cause the most extremist people to think, so the case is open again now. The international community is pressuring everyone to sit down at the table and make contact again, in order to end up with a peaceful and fair solution to the Middle East problem.

So, for these two reasons we can hope that this new initiative could perhaps have results. Still, I hasten to say that this U.S. initiative will never get results on its own. It should of necessity bring about a broadening of the circle of cooperation. Peace cannot be achieved in this part of the world outside of the circle of the main actors, which includes the Soviet Union, too

[Marzorati] Mr President, in your book you present yourself as the head of a state which, against all odds, wishes to keep its republican institutions. Now, the Lebanese Government has not met for a long time, and there has not been a Cabinet meeting for over 2 years because of a boycott by the Muslim ministers. Around the world, people are asking how on earth can this system work in the administration of daily affairs. And you yourself, when did you last visit the West?

[Al-Jumayyil] [Passage omitted] What you said, with regard to the Lebanese Government, is true that it does not meet. However, the Lebanese Government continues to act together. We act almost every day, and if it is impossible—for the same reasons that prevent me from going to some zones—for some ministers to come to Ba'abda [the presidential palace] or to Bikfayya, we have agreed on a way to act together. We use a certain process that is very practical and worthwhile, a process that ensures the continuity of the state, which ensures the normal operation of all the wheels of the state.

We have agreed on the replacement of cabinet meetings by flying minutes, in other words, we agree by correspondence or through envoys on the decisions to be taken. There is dialogue which takes place between the president, the prime minister, and the various ministers on specific subjects. Once we have agreed on a decision, a document is circulated among the pertinent ministers, the prime minister, and the president. This document is a real palliate; it is positive and useful for the cabinet which cannot meet. [passage omitted]

[Marzorati] There are various foreign armies on Lebanese territory—Syrians, Israeli, and various militia. As president you are also head of the Armed Forces. Is there still a Lebanese Army, and if there is, where is it and what is it doing?

[Al-Jumayyil] The Lebanese Army exists; the Lebanese Army is our hope; the Lebanese Army is still united. There is one military command which is in the Yarzah zone, not far from the Ba'abda presidential palace. This command includes soldiers of all religions and from all regions. It is from the General Army Command of the Defense Ministry that orders are issued to all the barracks spread throughout the entire Lebanese territory.

If today in some zones Lebanese troops are immobilized, without a broad margin for maneuvering, it is because of the current situation and the presence of foreign armies in the zones where these elements of the Lebanese Army are stationed. Now, given the situation in Lebanon, our Lebanese Army, which is still a young one, is not able to confront all the other foreign armies stationed in our country; they are much bigger, have better equipment, and greater numbers. This stops our Lebanese Army from acting as it would like to.

However, we can consider this Lebanese Army as being kept in reserve for a better, more favorable situation. It is there, under one command; the whole of the Lebanese Army, regardless of the religions to which its members belong, obeys the same orders, follows the same instructions, and is waiting for the right time to assume its national responsibility. [passage omitted]

[Grisebecque] Mr President, you are coming to the end of your 6-year term of office as president in September. Since the beginning of our conversation we have seen that there is no lack of problems for Lebanon. One has the impression to some extent that the election in September will give Lebanon another problem. So one asks, quite simply, if the election can take place?

[Al-Jumayyil] Believe me, I am asking myself the same question. [laughs] I am asking myself the same question. Of course, it is a problem. I do not always disagree with you. I admit when there is a problem. [laughs] That is a real problem, and I am working very hard to find a solution to it. We are working relentlessly to reconstruct our national consensus, to develop our political system in order to reconcile all the Lebanese people, and to try and promote institutional reforms. I hope these reforms can become a platform that favors national reconciliation. [passage omitted]

[Siffert] Seen from abroad, the Hizballah's rise to power in Lebanon is probably one of the most spectacular, if not disturbing, phenomena. At the moment the Hizballah are in control of the whole of the southern suburb of Beirut, they also control Ba'labakk; in these regions they have a veritable state within a state. Do you fear a real Iranization of Lebanon?

[Al-Jumayyil] I do not fear a system of Iranization in Lebanon, because these enclaves have not spread. The Lebanese people themselves are resistant to systems like the Iranian one. The Lebanese, regardless of their religion—Christian or Muslim—have always clung to a liberal system and to democracy; they will never accept an Iranian-style system. You have noted these two examples. Well, the very fact of naming these two examples proves that these two enclaves have not spread, and that they have been limited to a particular zone of Al-Biqa'.

If the Lebanese people were receptive to this kind of appeal, well, it would have followed suit a long time ago, particularly as Iran invests millions and millions of dollars to promote its message in Lebanon. I greatly regret that this Iranian infiltration should have been based on an agreement between the Syrian and the Iranian Governments. Under this agreement Syria must facilitate the arrival in Lebanon of the pasdarans, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, under Syrian escort and their installation in these zones. [passage indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker in progress] For the French hostages, that makes 3 years in detention now. You have publicly condemned these kidnappings of French journalists, diplomats, or researchers. You are the president of Lebanon; you have an intelligence service; you have an Army. Now, my question is clear: Who is holding the French hostages today?

[Al-Jumayyil] Do you want me to give you a straight answer? The French are holding them, because you are giving a premium through your way of amplifying the problem and of saying every day on television that this is the 1,000th day, the 1,001st day, the 1,002d day, and so on. This is the best premium you can give, France among others as you are French, to the kidnappers. Because you have shown your detractors and your enemies your vulnerable side, and that is how they've got you. Alas, you are pouring oil on the fire. Anyway, I do not want to continue with this, but I would say to you straight away that I myself am very sensitive to the drama that the hostages and their families are living through.

I myself am in solidarity with the suffering of all the people who are directly or indirectly concerned. Unfortunately the Lebanese state, the institutions of the Lebanese state, have been dismantled to such an extent that today it is becoming powerless in the face of this drama and these crimes. We would have liked to play a more efficient role, but unfortunately our institutions and our means are very limited, and increasingly so in this field.

[Unidentified speaker] Mr President, is it known who is holding these French hostages?

[Al-Jumayyil] I do not hide who is holding them. It is in the communiques, it is in the press every day. The Iranians [words indistinct due to interruptions] the Iranians do not hide their sympathy toward the associations which publicly recognize the kidnappings. So Iran has, on many occasions, publicly expressed its solidarity with the kidnappers.

[Unidentified speaker] Is there a precise idea where they are at the moment?

[Al-Jumayyil] We have information.

[Unidentified speaker] Can you give it to us?

[Al-Jumayyil] I can give it to you on one condition: If this information can be useful to you and get the hostages released, then I am ready to reveal it. However, if this results in pouring oil on the fire and puts the lives of the hostages themselves in danger, I think that would serve no purpose.

[Marzorati] Since last year a lot of French people have been murdered in the Christian sector of West Beirut. One can note that while French people are kidnapped in the Muslim sector of Beirut, they are killed in the east, in a zone controlled by your police and your Army. How can you explain this, and do you have any information on this?

[Al-Jumayyil] In the zones we control, that the Lebanese Army and Police control, we have shown our efficiency by arresting the murderer of Colonel Goutierre [murdered Frech diplomat]. This proves that in the zones we control, while we cannot always stop the murders, we can at least apply sanctions against the criminals. And we have done this. Today we are holding the murderer of Col Goutierre. He is a member of the Hizballah; he is being held by the Lebanese police and about to be tried.

[Roque] Dialogue between President al-Asad and yourself has been broken off—publicly at least—for 2 years. He maintains an army of at least 30,000 men in Lebanon. What are Syria's conditions for resuming the dialogue with you, and do you hope to see this dialogue resume before the end of your term of office?

[Al-Jumayyil] I would be very grateful if you could tell me what the real demands of Syria are concerning Lebanon. I would be very grateful, as I cannot hide the fact that I am lost on this one. In any case, I know what I want: As I explained to you, I want the unity of my country; I want a developed constitutional system, and reforms which can bring peace back to my country. I want the best relations with Syria. This is what I want for my country. Now, as for the rest, you will have to ask the Syrians themselves. As you say, the Syrians have tens of thousands of soldiers on our territory. This is not the first time I have said this—I even said it in my speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

Unfortunately their presence here, which, at the beginning was in the service of Lebanon, is increasingly contested today. It is true that this Syrian presence has some supporters, but it has also made a lot of enemies. Despite that, I treat the problem with the best possible will. I remain attached to the need to reopen the dialogue with Syria—the dialogue must be resumed at all costs. And I think the United States is helping in this respect, like other friends who have helped a lot in this respect.

Perhaps the direct dialogue between President al-Asad and myself has been broken off for Lebanon and Syria. But there are messages between us and I am pleased to note that the messages which are conveyed to me are not always negative. On the contrary, there are positive messages which allow us to believe we can hope to clear up relations between Lebanon and Syria. [passage omitted]

## Al-Asad Speaks on March Revolution Anniversary

*JN081550 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1007 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Speech by President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, on the 25th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution; at Al-Fayha' Hall in Damascus—live]

[Text] Brother citizens, comrades: People have different ways of calculating time and estimating ages. Some of them calculate one's age by the number of years, even if these years are barren. Others calculate them according to what the years brought and what man produced in them. Yet others combine this and that in their calculations. The best yield is that of long age abounding with plentiful fruit. For judgment to be fair for the 8 March Revolution at the outset of its 26th year, matters should be balanced in terms of time and results. Judgment should be in accordance with what was before it, what happened during it, and what it has thus far achieved. This fair judgment guides us to the correct path.

We find there is a large difference between two stages separated by the history of 8 March 1963. It pleases me that we are gathered in this celebration to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution, [applause] which paved its way through hardship and amid difficulties to become the most important stage in Syria's modern history and the rock on which the enemies' plots foundered and will continue to founder, and to become—as it was when it started—strong with the masses of our people and nation and firm in its principles.

On the morning of such a day in 1963, the sun of the revolution shone radiantly in the sky of our country. It spread its rays over the terrain of this good earth, heralding a new era that would dissipate the darkness of the epochs of colonialism and reactionaryism, destroy their negative aspects and remains, and demolish the structure of secessionist thinking. It was an era with which we began the march of unity, freedom, and socialism. [applause]

That day, 8 March, was not a jump into the unknown or an uncalculated adventure. It was the promised day for which our masses were waiting and struggling in order to draw a line separating the history of two stages—a stage of weakness in all fields and a stage of construction, progress, and power in every domain. That day, 8 March, was the promised day whose results were evident in the principles, aims, and struggle of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the large arena of the homeland, hoisting the banner of unity, freedom, and socialism [applause] and interacting with the Arab nation's pains, expressing its aspirations, and deriving its program and principles from these pains and aspirations.

When the Ba'th vanguards proceeded on 8 March 1963 to lay down the foundations of the revolution, they were only responding to the people's expectations and the nation's aspirations. Their move on that immortal day was backed by a glorious history recorded by our people and masses over a long period in resisting colonialism and reactionaryism and in resisting the military alliances and zones of influence.

They were the vanguards of the party which triggered the revolution on that immortal day and carried the woes of our Syrian people and the woes of our Arab nation, while looking ahead to the near and far future, rising in their thinking to the level of the supreme pan-Arab interest, and working for a true resurgence of the Arab nation compatible with its genuineness, its glorious past, and its certain heritage.

As the March revolution toppled the separatist rule in Syria, restoring this country's genuine, unionist, and pan-Arab face, it embarked on a large-scale and comprehensive construction process. This process was accompanied by serious, militant, pan-Arab practices, achieving one success after another in its victorious march. The 25-year-old March revolution stands as a lofty edifice—strong, solid, and deep-rooted in this steadfast people.

Since it began, the March revolution has been strong in its masses and objectives. Today, it is stronger with the rallying of the people around it, with the creative potentials it has produced, and with the achievements it has attained throughout the past 25 years. Since it began, the March revolution has always been moving forward. It is a pioneer movement in terms of organization, action, and production. The revolution has always been sublime in adopting stands and adhering to principles as well as in responding to the people's aspirations and the nation's hopes.

The clarity of doctrine and concept, adherence to principles, absolute belief in the masses and their unlimited capabilities, and the embodiment of this have all reinforced the revolution's confidence in the correctness of its march. These factors were a source of continuous rejuvenation of the revolution's vigor, a source of optimism in the future, and a motive for continuous success and achievements in all fields.

Today, on the 25th anniversary of your revolution, the revolution led by our party, which inspired its march from the Arab masses' heartbeats and the toilers' tribulation, we are proud of what we have achieved thanks to our people's efforts and struggle on all levels and in all fields. [applause]

The leading Ba'thist vanguard, which planned, led, and unleashed the revolution, took into consideration the difficulties which would face the revolution. It expected the difficulties to be large because the revolution had great hopes. However, the revolution's leadership was confident in removing the difficulties, because its awareness of the people's tribulations and hopes was stronger than all expected difficulties. Therefore, we did not hesitate in confronting the challenges which aimed at deviating us from the path, even though these challenges were great, many, and continuous.

These challenges emerged on the first days of the revolution, and have emerged in various methods and forms throughout the past 25 years. Obstacles and difficulties confronted us. We, in Syria, were exposed to campaigns and plots. But, we triumphed over them with unshakable determination and with our people's sacrifices. [applause]

With the entrenching and reinforcing of our national unity, we preserved our national will, free from all chains. We attained great and important achievements. We turned our country into a place sought by free people and a refuge for those who struggle for freedom, dignity, and self-determination.

We have made Syria into a modern state; a strong and impregnable state that stands fast in the face of the enemies, that confronts them, that has prestige, and whose opinion is heeded. [applause] We have made it become the country of progress and socialism [applause], the inexhaustible source of offerings, the symbol of struggle, and the base on which the Arab struggle depends for self-defense, the liberation of the land, the restoration of the usurped rights, and for the sake of the Arab nation's unity. [applause]

The past 25 years have been the richest years in Syria's life in terms of action and results. Great things have been achieved during these 25 years. Every governorate, city, and village is a testimony of these achievements. These achievements are clearly apparent in every walk of life, whether in the organizational, political, economic, cultural, social, or defense fields. [applause] Wherever we look around us, we find clear landmarks that testify to these solid achievements which are qualified to become permanent and to progress.

The roles of all the people in all walks of life have become more effective and more dynamic on the basis of broadening the base of authority and distributing responsibilities in order to secure the widest popular participation in the affairs of the country. This embodies the principle of popular democracy and the freedom of the masses, and realizes a clearer popular concept of the ever-increasing tasks in light of the course of construction and development.

Consequently, it produces a greater ability for excellence and creativity within the framework of these tasks, for invigorating the process of construction in service of the country and for attaining self-confidence, dignity, and the entrenchment of the sentiments of love for the homeland. [applause]

Thus, within the framework of the popular organizations and trade unions, and the legislative and executive bodies, the role of the worker, peasant, woman, student, artist, doctor, engineer, and others, has been enhanced. From this premise, the role of the entire homeland has been enhanced. Long live the homeland which glorifies its sons who in their turn contribute to their homeland's prestige. [applause and slogans]

We have made big strides along the course of popular democracy. The constitutional bodies were established and efficiently performed their prerogatives. The Progressive National Front [PNF] was established under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party as an important result of important efforts for national unity and as one of its most important bases. National unity [applause] is our most trenchant weapon for the confrontation of all challenges and conspiracies. As long as the domestic front is cohesive and national unity is solid, no enemy or conspirator can harm this country, make it deviate from its objectives, or hinder its national and pan-Arab struggle. [applause]

As I have previously said, the PNF has been and will always be a refuge for all the nationalist and progressive people, for all those who believe in its goals, and for all those who are determined to build the society of progress and socialism. By applying the local administration system, we have deepened democratic practice; we have also deepened the masses' role in shouldering their responsibility for directing government affairs and securing the people's permanent control of the soundness of running these affairs. Popular control and participation in this responsibility have played their full role.

As a result, popular organizations which have been effective in the national arena were reinforced, and other popular organizations which had not existed before the revolution were established. All these popular organizations are now playing their full role in the various dimensions of national life, are promoting their fruitful and constructive activity, and are being supported by the party and the state. [applause and slogans]

The General Federation of Trade Unions, the General Federation of Peasants, the General Federation of Syrian Students [applause and slogans], the Revolution Youths Union [applause and slogans], the General Federation of Women, the General Sports Union, the Ba'th Party Vanguards organization, the General Union of Craftsmen, the Arab Writers Federation, the Journalists Association, the Artists Union, and the professional unions of doctors, engineers, pharmacists, lawyers and others are now effective organizations in the society and all the national and pan-Arab arenas. [applause]

When we talk about the growing roles of all the people's sectors, we have to mention the working class represented in its trade union. [applause and slogans] We have to mention that the working class represented in their trade union has a decisive word in labor and workers affairs.

Peasants, represented by their popular organization, the General Federation of Peasants, have the final word in everything related to land. Popular organizations and trade unions have their representatives in the People's Assembly and local government councils. Through these representatives, the organizations and unions exercise their legislative, administrative, and observant role. [applause]

The cooperative movement received all support and encouragement. Cooperatives spread throughout the country, performing an important role in securing essential needs and requirements of the people. As for services, great efforts have been made to provide and spread them throughout the country. Although we still have plenty to do, our achievements so far have greatly improved living conditions, whether in the city or in rural areas, large parts of which are enjoying electricity, water, and other services for the first time. [applause]

In the field of culture and education, progress was really great with the expansion of universities and their needs, the building of new universities and institutes with all their needs, and the opening of schools, sport facilities, and cultural establishments with their needs.

In the field of public health, many hospitals and dispensaries were built and equipped throughout the country. There was great activity in the fields of health care and child care, including national immunization campaigns which gave our children, men of the future, immunity against dangerous diseases and infections. [applause]

In the field of transportation, an immense increase in roads, railways, buses, and trains was achieved. Air and sea ports were increased, expanded, and improved. The means of air and sea transport were increased. A similar expansion was achieved in the field of communication. This included telephone and telegraph networks. Mail services were also improved. As for all branches of the economy—agriculture, industry, trade, and banking services—we can safely say, despite everything to which we were subjected, that we possess a solid economic base capable of steadfastness, development, and expansion in all sectors—namely, the public, private, and joint sectors.

Cultivated lands have increased. We established scores of dams, some of which are large dams, others of which are of medium size. Some of these dams have been completed; others are being constructed. We also have achieved much of the needs of agriculture such as fertilizers and agricultural equipment. Industry has also greatly developed with the establishment of many new plants. [applause]

Our economic situation is solid, despite the difficulties we are facing and of which I have previously spoken. I have also explained their objectives and inherent factors as well as the means for overcoming them. We started to move on the road to economic health and the elimination of obstacles. Work is now done more efficiently. As I have mentioned, our solid economic foundations help us in this regard. We must make appropriate efforts and formulate the appropriate plans and programs. Before all this, what is more important is that all of us should continue to have a high sense of national responsibility.

We also should carry out our work with perseverance, eagerness, and devotion, based on the premise that everything in this homeland is the property of each one of us, wherever he may be, and irrespective of his profession or work. This is how the love for the homeland is translated. Those who love their homeland love all those who live in it and everything in it. [applause and slogans]

The lack of rain has made our country assume heavy burdens in the past. This year's season heralds good results. We ask God to repeat such seasons in the future, and hope that the dry cycle which was characterized by the scarcity of rain in the past is over. Our efforts in the exploration of natural resources are proceeding well. Good omens have emerged on the horizon, thus substantiating the optimism to which I previously referred. We have made important discoveries in oil and gas. [applause]

The performance of this task by all, wherever their locations may be, and as best as they can, is the best means for our efforts to produce the expected results. In this respect, I would like to reemphasize the importance of the sense of responsibility and initiative, the need to combat useless extravagance, and the implementation of the principle of reward and punishment—punishing those who fail in their duties and rewarding creative individuals. Every citizen must perfect his work and be a model in what he performs. Thus, the moves we have initiated toward eliminating the obstacles that hamper our progress would yield their results. [applause]

We have raised the slogan of self-dependence and national creativity. [applause] In addition to its being a sound slogan at any stage and at any time, this slogan is specifically needed in our current circumstances. We are facing a vicious enemy which is supported by the boundless resources of the United States. We are also facing economic pressures against our country.

The conference of national creativity and self-reliance, which was held at the invitation of the General Federation of Trade Unions, was an important conference in the manner I mentioned. In preparing and calling for this conference, there was a clear connection between it and the 21st conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions [applause], based on the issues and ideas presented to the 21st conference. These issues and ideas were closely linked to the economic and social situation in particular, and the overall situation in our country in general. [applause] I addressed the 21st conference and indicated what should be done to protect and develop our economy and to improve our people's living conditions within the framework of a farsighted concept. [applause]

I also indicated that we have economic difficulties, but that we do not have an insolvable economic crisis. I also pointed out the reasons for the economic difficulties we are facing, and said that they stem from a situation which can be summed up in the fact that we consume more than we produce despite the presence of a large production base. Hence, the relationship between these two sides of the economy—that is, production and consumption—should be rectified so that the equation can be balanced as a first step toward giving greater weight to production.

On that occasion, I made five remarks. In the first, which was related to increasing production, I stressed the need to search for raw materials in our country and to partially or wholly use them as an alternative to the imported raw materials. In the second, I stressed the need to intensify efforts to extract and increase the extraction of the mineral and other national wealth, particularly that whose presence has been proven by studies, experiments, and excavations. In my third remark, I stressed the need to develop the individual and collective initiatives in every domain in the service of the society as well as the need to expand and promote experiments and initiatives and to exchange expertise among the institutions so as to attain the best results. In the fourth remark, I called for making maximum use of machines in all institutions, factories, and farms.

In my last remark, I stressed the need to make use of time, which is one of the most serious elements of squandering, and the need to overcome the problem of wasted time. In the field of public consumption, I said public expenditure should be cut down and private consumption curtailed. This requires the cooperation of all citizens. While referring to what I said at the 21st conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions, I appreciate the General Federation's quick response to what I proposed and its efforts to draw up

the scientific and practical formula in order to attain that. I greatly thank and praise those who took the initiative to serve the people and the homeland in all spheres. [applause]

I would like to point out that the situation now in terms of the spirit of initiative and work dynamic is better than before. Despite this, what we have achieved does not represent our ambitions. It is one of a few steps on the path of our ambitions. What we have achieved toward these ambitions has passed the beginning of the road.

At the top of our achievements in the March revolution era is the most important achievement reached by our brave Armed Forces in the glorious October war [applause] and the active war of attrition in the Golan and Mount Hermon. [applause] The effect of this achievement will remain, despite all acts of treason and conspiracy against that great act of liberation carried out by our Armed Forces with bravery and honorable performance. [applause]

Although the October war liberated part of the territory, which is an important matter, it was also a turning point in Arab life and in Arabs dealing with invasion. It was the first time in the history of our conflict with this invasion in which the Arabs moved from the defensive position to the offensive position and took the initiative. [applause] It was also the first time in which the distinguished standard of Arab soldiers emerged in terms of organization, training, and bravery. [applause] The propaganda of the Zionists and their allies could not hide this fact from the world.

Hence, taking the initiative and the bravery of the well-trained Arab soldiers produced the decisive result in our final conflict with the invasion—that is, an end to the complex of fear of Israeli force and the removal of illusions which had accumulated in the souls of Arab fighters and citizens from the beginning of the Arab-Zionist conflict until the October war. The results of the October war were reflected in the Arab fighters and citizens as self-confidence, readiness for sacrifice, and pride in it. These results were reflected in the Arab nation as a position and weight which it had not experienced for many centuries. The steadfastness and the popular and military challenge to the occupation which we have been observing since the October war are a result and a continuation of the October spirit. [applause]

Here emerges before us the honorable battle our Armed Forces waged against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Our forces fought in defense of Lebanon and gave thousands of martyrs, as they were fighting in defense of Syria. They fought in defense of the Arab citizens—the Palestinians and Lebanese—just as they fight in defense of the Syrian Arab citizens.

This is what the Syrian forces have done in Beirut, Jabal Lubnan, eastern Lebanon, and everywhere the Israeli enemy has existed or moved. Our forces have exercised this honorable pan-Arab battle with heroism and effectiveness. Although the enemy was superior in power in terms of ground forces and although Israel dominated the air and used various types of weapons and modern ammunition, our forces continued to wage the battle with strength, firmness, and high combat morale.

When I received some army commanders after they returned from their forces' positions during the battle, they spoke proudly about the Syrian fighters' high morale during the battle as well as about these fighters' courage and good performance. [applause] When the army commanders returned, they spoke proudly about the Syrian fighters' morale in the battle positions as well as our military men's courage and good performance in confronting the enemy, which had superior numbers and equipment. [applause]

We have also foiled all attempts to prevent us from confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon's territory. We have also rejected all attempts to neutralize or remove us from the battle. We have rejected all offers to achieve that. We even did not accept what seemed to be a Syrian gain. Instead, we insisted on Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian gains. [applause] We remained so until the last movement. We preferred that the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian blood mix in one pan-Arab battle. The Syrian people sacrificed much blood and money for that goal. [applause and slogans]

Syria continued with the Lebanese resistance, despite the arrival of large NATO forces, which I do not think we have forgotten and which we will keep in our popular memory. In your name, I greet our brave Armed Forces. [applause] I greet their courageous officers, NCO's, and soldiers in the air, at sea, and on ground. [applause and slogans] They are defending the homeland and the nation's honor and dignity. They are always ready to respond to the call to carry out any pan-Arab duty. They continue to sacrifice their souls in defense of the nation's causes. They are the fence and the strong wall of the homeland. [applause] They are the ones who believe in the slogan "martyrdom or victory" and the ones who believe that those who retreat from the enemy are treasonous and should be killed.

Syria—people and Army—is continuing to support the Lebanese resistance in the full meaning of the word. This resistance has deserved and still deserves every support and sacrifice, because it has been sincere to itself and its cause. It did not stop its confrontation of the enemy with all its might and it did not hesitate to continue its resistance. The Arab masses and the entire world are hearing the news of the continued attacks being launched against the enemy and its agents. It always constitutes a blazing front against Israel and its agents.

Greetings to the Lebanese national resistance with its Islamic and nationalist currents. [applause] Be confident, O resisting men of Lebanon, that Syria will continue as it has before. It will not hesitate to support you or sacrifice for you. Just as we backed Lebanon in its resistance to the enemy, so we supported it domestically. We stopped the civil war and maintained security in a large area. The question of domestic peace was suspended, for it requires work and determination from the Lebanese parties. Those parties must arrive at common denominators that fulfill their aspirations.

Thus, Syria has always stressed the importance of a Lebanese national accord, and has made serious efforts to bring it about. It dealt honestly with all. There is no reason to doubt that, as no one can ignore the fact that Syria shoulders burdens and offers sacrifices. [applause] It is my very great

wish that everyone move toward a conciliatory solution through the correct path. Otherwise, things will remain as they are. Indeed, they may even get worse and never move forward. We in Syria will be quite pleased when the Lebanese problem is solved, as the Lebanese people's suffering is our suffering. They are our kinfolk and brothers. [applause]

Brother citizens, comrades, while celebrating the anniversary of the revolution, we turn our hearts and minds, as well as our feelings and emotions, to those kinfolk and brothers resisting occupation in the occupied Arab territories in the Golan, on Palestinian soil, and in southern Lebanon. [applause] Our kinfolk in the Golan are holding out and fighting occupation with their shouts, stones, and other things. [applause and chants] Our brothers in Palestinian territory are holding out and resisting occupation with their shouts, stones, and other things. [applause]

Our Lebanese Arab brothers are holding out and resisting occupation with blood and fire. [applause] They are all using different means to express their rejection of occupation. They are emphasizing their loyalty to the land and its liberty. They are highlighting the fact that people reject surrender and spurn its advocates.

Your brothers and sons in the Golan Heights have been fighting the enemy from the very start of the occupation, especially when the enemy tried to impose Zionist citizenship on them. They opposed this attempt with vigor. They remained steadfast in the face of Israeli pressures, embodying the determination of their people and nation. The enemy failed, and will continue to fail. [applause]

Israel wants the Syrians in the Golan to dissociate themselves from their people and history. It wants them to live deprived of their popular roots and history. Racist Zionism, with all the hatred it harbors for people in general and for the Arab nation in particular, is the force that prods the Israelis to commit all types of crimes, and to translate its hatred, which has manifested itself many times in many countries of the world, into reality.

Just as a man cannot be stripped of his skin, so a people cannot dissociate themselves from their origins and history. It is on this basis that your brothers and sons are acting in the Golan. Brothers and sons in the Golan, rest assured. The enemy knows we are not asleep. Today, we are here and the coming days will most certainly be ours. [applause and slogans]

As for your brothers in Arab Palestine, they have, through their revolutionary action, restored the purity and magnificence of the Palestinian cause. They have shown the world that the people depicted by Zionist propaganda as submissive are actually a proud and courageous Arab people. They are a people who reject injustice, submission, and surrender and will accept nothing but their full identity and rights. [applause]

Our Palestinian Arab people have confirmed that the Zionists themselves have gone astray and that they have misled others. They have fooled their protectors into thinking that repression, oppression, and aggression can subdue a people and usurp a land forever. However, we see that the heroes of Palestine, the young men and the children, are proving that justice prevails over repression, that love of the land is stronger than oppression, and that man's will is far stronger than tyranny. [applause and slogans]

The Palestinian people's popular uprising has imposed itself on the international scene, and has compelled everyone to accept the fact that the Palestinians are a living people determined to recover their full rights. This is a defeat for Zionist propaganda and for many of Zionism's bogus postulates. Barbaric repression can never legalize a situation based on lies. The breaking of bones cannot sap the morale of a people determined to regain their rights. Justice is always stronger. Those who defend their rights always triumph. [applause]

The Israelis forget, or try to forget, the lessons of history. After all, they do not want to admit that Israel cannot continue its aggression forever. History shows that no hostile power can hang on for long. Colonialism, which committed acts of aggression against the Arab states and many other countries, is a case in point. The plans of every colonialist power were designed to keep it in its colonies as long as possible. However, colonialism was always opposed by the people and their revolutions, and left those countries in humiliation.

Many colonialists claimed that the land they occupied was theirs. This occurred in the Arab homeland and elsewhere. However, armed force was not enough to make these claims stick. Colonialism ended, the colonialists were defeated, and the land returned to its owners. [applause] Desperate and impatient people at every level may think that the best and safest road is to gain some of our rights and relinquish others. They call this reciprocal concession. In our case, this means that the enemy will grant us some of our rights, while we give it some of our other rights. We call this surrender.

They justify their position by claiming there is no other way, and that if such a road exists, it will be blocked. We feel that other roads, the other road, in fact, exists and is open. However, we lack the determination to take it. It is the road of work, patience, perseverance, staunch struggle, and great sacrifice. [applause and slogans]

Colonialist affairs and the struggle of nations against colonialism are not measured in days, months, or years. They are measured by the depth of popular will and the determination of the masses. There is no need for us to go too far or to look for proof in the history of other nations. Arab history is full of such examples, which it has recorded and which historians have studied for centuries. Our struggle in Syria against French colonialism, Algeria's struggle, Libya's struggle, Yemen's struggle, and the struggle of the other Arab countries in modern times are themselves proof of what I am saying. Yet, we can say that the most prominent and impressive event in Arab and world history is the colonialist European crusader invasion.

We stood fast on our land and fought this wave. We defeated it, and liberated the land during the long wars of European colonialism. At that time, we could not free our land in 1 year, 10 years, 20 years, or 30 years. However, we stood our ground, and struggled until we achieved the goal of liberation 200 years after the invasion began. As a result,

the European invaders collapsed, although they once occupied vast tracts of Arab land. They held the entire Syrian coast, which is now the coast of Syria and Lebanon, as well as Palestine, Trans-Jordan, and parts of central and northern Syria. In addition, they established material and human bases for a permanent stay in these areas, operating from the premise that the land was theirs, and that they had the right to live there.

O Palestinian brothers: Blessed be your sacrifices, blessed be your martyrs, and blessed be your wounded. The road is hard, not only for you, but also for the invaders and their allies, and for the defeatists. The invaders and the world should know that your uprising is a continuous process of steadfastness. It is not temporary. The world has begun to realize this fact. [applause and slogans]

O brothers in the occupied territory: The French colonialists were driven out of Syria only through sacrifice and martyrdom. They left only through sacrifice and martyrdom. That strain of colonialism was deprived of stability for more than 20 years. At that time, France was a big power. Some may say that France never claimed Syria was part of its territory.

But what about Algeria? For more than 130 years, French colonialism dealt with Algeria as if it were French territory and part of France. The French military, with all its ground, air, and naval forces, was in Algeria. At one point, the French, who went to Algeria in the belief it was their country, outnumbered Israeli emigrants to Palestine. Yet, this material and intellectual structure, as well as the claims of French colonialism, could not stand up and prove their soundness before the Algerian people's steadfastness, struggle, and sacrifice. This occurred because the colonialist system is null and void.

Proceeding from their genuineness, deep roots in Algerian soil, and right to regain their land and liberty, the Algerian people decided to destroy that colonialist system and live as free men in a free nation. As a result, the French returned to what is truly France, while the Algerians remained in what is truly Algeria.

Italian colonialism planted settlers in much of Libya. It did not do so with a view to evacuating the country later. However, it left the country and the Libyan people regained their freedom, and Libya was again free and independent. [applause] In Yemen, the British considered Aden a permanent post. For more than 125 years, the British would not accept opposition from any quarter. However, the British were compelled to leave Aden and all the other land in Yemen they occupied. The Yemeni people regained their land and recovered their freedom on their soil. [applause]

I gave these examples from our Arab history to answer, or to help those who want to answer, the skeptics and capitulationists who keep repeating their claims about the difficulty of opposing Israel and its invasion. They also stress that Israeli colonialism is different from all other varieties. They assert that no nation has ever been exposed to colonialism like this, and that none managed to remove it. The facts of recent and distant history tell us: These are cogent proofs, so follow suit. [applause] The peoples struggle and the affairs of colonialism are never measured in days, months, or years. They are measured by the will of the people and the masses, and by their determination to confront and expel colonialism from the land it occupies. [applause]

The Vietnamese expelled a superpower and its large armies, even though they did not have the resources of the Arab nation. They fought for many years and have every right to be proud of their struggle. Even we in this country are proud of their struggle, for the causes of struggle cannot be monopolized within a specific area. They are like the rays of the sun, which move from place to place, and reach every corner of the globe. The aggrieved, the oppressed, and the colonized, those whose lands are occupied, feel the rays of struggle before others.

France was a superpower when it entered Syria. It was cooperating with Great Britain, and the two were sharing the spoils of war. They viewed Syria and the Arab homeland as part of the fruits of victory. Despite the backward circumstances of the time, we can get an idea of those circumstances if we remember the events of 70 years ago.

The situation was complex, and there was much backwardness, poverty, and ignorance. The people had access to only a fraction of the resources necessary to oppose an enemy, especially if the enemy is a superpower, as I said. Despite this, our people resisted the French invaders in every corner of Syria. They fought them with every available tool on Syrian soil that could help them in their fight. They confronted the invaders with stones, clubs, knives, and every type of rifle available to them at the time. There are many conspicuous examples of heroism and national strategy. I have many such examples in mind, but there is no time to list them here. Those who made sacrifices had but one objective—to bring dignity to their homeland. According to their slogan, the colonialist who came to our country should be expelled, disgraced, and humiliated. [applause]

The colonialists began to exploit every element of backwardness and ignorance. They made tempting proposals to the people, but found no response. The spirit of the revolution spread and grew. When the French colonialists found that they gained nothing from their presence in Syria, they left for France. As for us, we stayed. Every country that has been colonized has its share of the hesitant and the skeptical. One occasionally finds agents and collaborators, as well. No matter how large their number may be, they will always remain a handful, as the people embody pride, dignity, lofty values, and nationalism.

Agents are always anomalies. They form a very small minority. When the masses rise against colonialism, the agents always seek refuge and begin looking for an escape route. They have no influence, and cannot do anything or offer any service to their masters, the colonialists. In general, the colonialists always place their hopes on the agents in the countries they occupy.

The struggle was a general frame of mind. At that time, our people lacked the ability to organize efficiently. However, the general militant frame of mind prompted the people to meet spontaneously and made their struggle serve the same objective spontaneously.

Some of those in this hall may have lived through part of that era. I was a student when the French colonialists were in Syria. At that time, we students could fight the enemy only with our faith in the homeland and its dignity, and with our confidence that this colonialist enemy was an alien invader who should leave. However, we did not lack the means of struggle. Years passed, and half our school days were spent in street demonstrations. In most cases our demonstrations passed the French barracks, where we were fired upon. We used to scatter down this or that street and stand behind walls, but we never ran away. [applause and chants]

We used to wait for the shooting to stop. As soon as the enemy stopped shooting at us, we would reassemble and continue our march, with its shouts and protests. In most of our demonstrations we would stand in front of the barracks condemning, shouting, and throwing whatever we had in our hands. Then they would start shooting again, and we would take cover.

However, we would always go back to what we were doing. [applause] We were never afraid of the French fire. In fact, they feared their own fire. After all, once the shooting stopped, no French soldier or French Army volunteer—as you know, they used to bring us soldiers from all their colonies—dared to leave his barracks. For several days, they would be afraid to wander the streets or visit people. If one of them ventured out into the street, he would rarely return safely or alive. [applause]

French soldiers were beaten up in the streets and everywhere else by children, young people, and women. They were attacked from roofs and alleys. Knives, stones, and other things were used. Obviously, our people paid the price. People were punished, killed, or imprisoned. However, only individuals were punished or jailed. The people and the broad masses remained and continued their struggle. [applause] They did so even after some power was transferred in a bid to give it a national character, and after a number of Syrians assumed administrative posts.

I remember that we demonstrated and protested, and one of these officials came and asked us to disperse. He said the matter was being discussed in the capital and that the evacuation was imminent. I recall that we even used to chant slogans when we returned to school. We used to say: We will return, we will return, but in our return, there will be blood and fire. [applause and slogans]

The Israelis claim that Palestine is theirs. Moreover, they claim that the land between the Nile and the Euphrates is theirs. They say their god gave them the land between those borders, which they see as a trust they should safeguard. As such, they feel guilty as long as they have not liberated all the land between the Nile and the Euphrates. As long as they are in Palestine, wouldn't it better to entrench our steadfastness on this front line rather than retreat until the Israelis reach the banks of the Nile and the Euphrates? I don't know what the hesitant and the defeatists will say then. But they will never get there. [applause] They will never stay in Palestine. [applause] Our heroic Palestinian people and our Arab masses are lying in wait for them everywhere, and above all in Palestine.

If it claims, among other things, to own Palestine, we ask: Haven't other colonialist forces claimed the lands of the countries they colonized? I said this, and mentioned Algeria as an example. Algeria is a recent case, and the majority of our people's sons lived through that period. France used to treat Algeria as French territory. The number of French settlers in Algeria reached the thousands, even the hundreds of thousands. Many of them were born in Algeria and set themselves up there in the belief it was their land. The French ground, sea, and air forces were there, just as they are today in France. A large number of French supported the idea, just as the Zionists claim to have backers among a large stratum of Israelis and Zionists outside Israel. Just as Israel has supporters, France, too, had those who backed its claim. The basic difference is that France itself was a superpower for 130 years.

However, the determination of the Algerian people uprooted French colonialism and shattered its theory. As I said, the British presence in Aden and the Gulf was quite similar. I remember visiting the Soviet Union in 1966. In a side conversation, the late Soviet Premier Kosygin told me: The British prime minister was here some time ago and he told me—that is, he told the Soviets—that Britain was ready to wage world war rather than leave the Gulf. They were not prepared to leave the Gulf, even if their continued presence would cause a world war. The British were forced to move out a short while later, leaving the Yemenis free on their land. [applause]

Britain, too, was a superpower. Why not learn lessons from these cases and their outcomes? True, we should not scoff at Israel's might and the power of those who stand behind it. The United States is a superpower. It has tremendous resources. It supports Israel heart and soul. It backs it with all its might. Every American official has reaffirmed this. We have met with them for years. I personally received an American envoy. In all this time, not a single American official has come out against Israel, or claimed not to support Israel or provide it with aid. All this is true.

The United States stands beside Israel and provides it with considerable assistance. However, the United States itself was in Vietnam. It was not there through some third party like the small state of Israel. It was there itself. American forces, and not those of some other country supported by the United States, were in Vietnam. The U.S. forces themselves were in Vietnam. They were the direct colonialist power. The Vietnamese people took on the U.S. forces directly and engaged them in battle. The Americans used all the weapons, money, and soldiers they could muster. However, they left defeated and unconditionally. The Vietnamese fulfilled their aspirations completely, also without preconditions.

Through my comments, I want to address some of our brothers in the Arab countries. If we cannot liberate now, and cannot recover our rights now, we must also be unable to sell out those rights. [applause and slogans] If we cannot decide or achieve victory now, it is also impermissible for us to bring about our defeat now. Why this impatience? Why this haste to impose defeat on ourselves?

The decisive issues, including those we face today, are not the property of individuals, even if they are top leaders. These issues belong to the people and to many generations.

No single generation or responsible person unable to achieve the interests of the coming generation can avoid passing on a defeat recorded in writs signed by the official, or the generation through that official. [applause]

As I said, the European invasion lasted 200 years. Had we been desperate from the start, as a people and nation, and surrendered through the logic of mutual concessions, the Arab homeland would be confined within narrow borders. The Arab nation would be living on a small piece of land. Europeans would be living throughout much of the Arab world. They would be living where we live today, with their kingdoms, kings, and settlers. There were defeatists among us then. They were few in number, although they held sensitive and responsible positions in important countries. However, the nation as a whole rejected surrender, remained loyal, and insisted on victory. There were ups and downs in the war, and we won and we lost.

However, the will for victory was never defeated. The will to win remained until victory was won against the only international superpower of the time. For 3 months, European and crusader forces under the kings of Germany and France besieged Damascus, our country's capital. [applause] Their headquarters were in Al-Marja Square. The Arabs stood fast in Damascus, resisting from behind their walls until the large European army was defeated and returned from whence it came.

These are clear examples from history. They are greater than what we face today. Two hundred years and many generations have passed and the nation with its masses fought the European colonialists. At that time, the European colonialists were a united force. We never felt desperate. How difficult is it to fight Israel in comparison to Europe as a whole?

Can anyone convince us that the confrontation of Israel is more difficult than the confrontation of Europe and its armies, not to mention the modern weapons available at the time? Each era has its own technology and weapons. Taken as a whole, Europe was strong, but we defeated it nevertheless. Where does Israel figure among all this? It goes without saying that there were no Americans then, and that America had not been discovered. In any case, the inhabitants of America are the grandsons of those Europeans who invaded our country. All this serves to highlight the importance of our people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories. [applause]

I would like to address the young men who are confronting the enemy, the young men in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. To them I say: This is the road. This is the road to justice. You may say anything you like to those who tell you otherwise, but do not tell them they are right. [applause and slogans]

I tell my Palestinian brothers: The blood of your martyrs and wounded is very dear and precious, but it will not be squandered. This blood represents to you and to the Arab nation the concept of struggle in general, glorious pages of dignity and pride. It is giving you the more effective weapon to attain your freedom, and the sharper weapon so that the enemy will not usurp your territory forever. Can anyone after this say that martyrdom is a waste of blood? Martyrdom is sacrifice, an unlimited sacrifice. [applause] Nothing matches it in its offerings. Individuals in every homeland are the property of the homeland, the property of the people, and the property of the nation. All of us as individuals must be ready at any moment to be martyred for the sake of the nation, for the sake of the people. [applause] All of us as individuals are mortal and all of us as people are immortal. [applause]

We say and reiterate our immortal slogan: One Arab nation. Why? What do we mean by immortality? We mean the nation. We mean the masses. We do not mean an individual or a generation in itself. What is immortal is the nation and the people with their successive generations. The individual's immortality lies in the immortality of his nation, his people. [applause] The individual who is more worthy of becoming immortal within the framework of his nation's immortality is first and foremost the martyr who is martyred for his nation. [applause]

Brethren, this was the destiny of colonialism here and there in the Arab homeland and in the world. Complete your path. Do not listen to the words of a desperate person or to the whispers of defeatists and connivers. Your nation is with you, and the Syrian people have always been at the vanguard of this nation, [applause] against invasion and colonialism and against those who capitulate to them or connive with them. [applause]

O brothers in the occupied territory, do not be deceived by what you hear about peace. Israel is not an advocate of peace; it wants the capitulation of the Arabs and not the peace of the Arabs. [applause] What Israel wants from every move is to impose its will on the Arabs and on you, first by aborting your uprising and obtaining Arab approval to undermine your rights and cancel your role from the militant and historical Arab map. This will never happen, because we are with you, with ourselves, with our history and geography. [applause]

I do not want to discuss the plans that are being proposed. However, in brief I say: They are the same—the same spirit, the same essence, even if the words are different—as all of the plans that have been proposed for many years; there is nothing new. What is important is that the war is continuing. It is important that it should be so. [applause] At times we wage it with guns, and at times with stones; at times with a popular demonstration, and at times with all-out military conflicts; and at other times with other forms compatible with the various aspects of steadfastness.

But we must in all circumstances be steadfast psychologically, intellectually, and physically, since it is first a form of war and rejecting capitulation and preventing the enemy from achieving its goals, and second a necessary base from which to wage all other forms of war. [applause] We must not lose patience; we must fight weariness. It is not important to alleviate our weariness; neither is it important that we settle our conflict tomorrow. What is more important is that we do not sell out our rights and history, no matter how momentous are the sacrifices. [applause]

What is more important is that we do not sell out our rights and history, no matter how momentous are the sacrifices, because this is the essence of steadfastness. The peoples' steadfastness against the colonialists is always fertile, and always escalates. Steadfastness cannot be confined to a specific group or a strata of a people. Steadfastness spreads like life, particularly among the sons of the one nation. It cannot be checked by borders, enemy trenches, or the aggressors' weapons. [applause]

What is taking place in the occupied territories cannot be viewed in isolation from what is taking place in Lebanon. The state of affairs in Lebanon also cannot be viewed in isolation from the state of affairs in Syria. Each of these states of affairs has its Arab depth. This is the logic of history. It can only be disregarded by those who do not read history and those who lack reason. [applause]

What is taking place in the occupied territories is a source of pride to us. We must understand it as it is. We must also allot it the importance it deserves, irrespective of the short-term material results. This is because what is taking place substantiates the nation's determination, nurtures this determination, reaffirms the nation's unity, and enhances the spirit of unity.

May God bless you, you who are standing fast in Palestine [applause]. Greetings to you, you who are standing fast in the Golan [applause]. Greetings to you, you who are standing fast in southern Lebanon. [applause and slogans] Greetings to all our people who are standing fast. Our relatives and sons, we would like to reaffirm to you that we are one solid body in the same battle until victory. [applause]

Brothers, any road other than the road of total construction that achieves total strength is of little use, and mostly futile in our conflict with the Zionist invasion. We do not want to block other roads which others want to pursue because they are confident or expect that such roads will lead to a just end of the cause, unless such roads indicate that they lead to relinquishment and capitulation. We approach the issue, its complications, and ramifications with an open mind, clear vision, and principled determination so that we do not lose the road and do not miss our goal. [applause]

We must be fully alert and beware of the pitfalls of haste in searching for a solution, particularly in the absence of appropriate objective conditions, and of achieving a solution to the enemy's problems not a solution to our problems, thus falling into a trap set for us where there is relinquishment and an incinerator of history. [applause]

There is no cause for anxiety. [applause] There is no cause for anxiety, as the future is ours, not Israel's. Israel has factors of power, and we do too. Israel's superiority in certain categories is temporary, for we can and will have what Israel has in the near or distant future. However, Israel cannot have what the Arabs have in the near or distant future, for we have two things. [applause] We can and will have what Israel has in the near or distant future, but Israel cannot have what the Arabs have in the near or distant future, for we have two things that Israel cannot have now or then. They are: The clear right and a large nation. [applause and slogans] Let us go forward with our eyes open and our hearts optimistic, and with a martyr's confidence in certain victory. [applause]

The world wants to move into the 21st century in better health and in a more reassuring climate, free from fear and anxiety about human progress, fate, and life. [applause] Therefore, there is a large and growing interest everywhere in efforts to limit, reduce, and eliminate nuclear arms. The partisans of peace and the international public are pressing toward this goal. After all, these weapons are the gravest danger to civilization and human life on earth. [applause] Undoubtedly, Soviet efforts in this field are great. The Soviet Union has been persistent in repeating and following up its initiatives in the past.

During this period, an agreement was reached on the elimination of intermediate- and short-range nuclear weapons. This was an important step, for it was the first time an accord had been concluded on reducing nuclear arms and eliminating a class of them. We vigorously support this agreement, and we urge additional accords on the further reduction of these weapons until they are eliminated entirely.

The status of the international economy is also a source of concern for the countries of the world. After all, it does not bring justice and conflicts with the requirements for international security and peace. It is difficult to achieve global stability while the majority of the world's nations are being continuously exploited by the more advanced countries. The gap between the Third World and the advanced countries is growing wider. The international economic order should be reconsidered, and the struggle to attain that goal should be intensified. This order should be established on just bases, which can narrow the gap among the world's nations and help achieve balanced economic and social growth.

Our international relations are firmly within the framework of nonalignment and the Islamic countries. Our relations with socialist countries, especially the friendly Soviet Union, are growing [applause]. Our relations with the Soviet Union are constantly growing and increasingly stronger. The Soviet Union is always at our side in our struggle against aggression, and for the achievement of a just peace that restores all the occupied Arab territories and all the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. [applause]

Brother citizens, comrades: Let us all move united and cooperative, spreading love in all parts of our country. Let every one of us strengthen his self-confidence. Let every one of us always be ready to sacrifice everything

for the sake of others—his people and his homeland. Let us be proud of our people, our homeland, and our history. Let us raise the banner of the people and the homeland sky high. [applause] Let us all build our country with all our power, so that it becomes the fortress of love and steadfastness against all aggressors and invaders.

We belong to a great nation for whose unity and solidarity we work. The stronger our country, the more we can achieve to this end. The homeland obtains its strength from the strength of every one of you and from your unity, so that we will all be one hand, one heart, and one will.[applause] When we are strong, our Arab nation becomes strong. If Syria is triumphant, so will the Arabs be triumphant. If it is defeated, so will the Arabs be defeated. By God's protection and your determination, Syria will not be defeated [applause].

My greetings to you. My love to you. I am all for you. And for another 25 years, if God is willing. Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [applause]

## Afghanistan

### Mujahidin Leader Retracts Decision To Resign

*BK101144 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP)—Moderate Afghan resistance leader Sebghatullah Mujadeddi has reversed his decision to resign from the seven-party mujahidin alliance, his son said here Thursday.

Mr. Mujadeddi, who heads the moderate Afghanistan National Liberation Front (ANLF), quit the alliance Monday but had changed his mind "under pressure from commanders, tribal leaders and thousands of mujahidin," Zabihullah Mujadeddi said.

"Recognising the assurances given by Pakistan and the other alliance members on the issues raised by Sebghatullah Mujaddedi, his group will remain part of the alliance," Mr. Zabihullah Mujadeddi said.

His father had claimed that Pakistan was favouring hardline Islamic groups within the alliance and had forced it to name an interim government in February which excluded any representatives from the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul.

### La'eq Leaves on Visit to Hungary, CSSR

*LD092038 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal and border affairs and head of the Republic of Afghanistan's Academy of Sciences, left Kabul this morning for the Hungarian People's Republic and the CSSR, at the invitation of the authorities in those countries.

He was seen off at Kabul airport by Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of communications, a number of scientists from the Academy of Sciences, and the ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic in Kabul.

### Najibullah Meets DYOA Officials, Outlines Tasks

*LD092049 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] This afternoon at PDPA Central Committee headquarters, Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received the secretaries and officials in charge of the DYOA provincial committees.

BIA reported that the meeting was also attended by the members of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat, the Executive Bureau and officials of the Central Committee's departments and head instructors of the armed forces' DYOA committees and organizations from the capital and provinces.

At the meeting Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the duties of the DYOA committees and organizations in improving the situation in education and training, participating in the growth and development of the country's economic situation, enlarging the ranks of the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces and implementing the national reconciliation policy.

At this meeting a number of secretaries and those in charge of the DYOA provincial party committees, and head instructors of the DYOA in the armed forces, raised issues with Esteemed Najibullah about their difficulties and problems in raising the level of knowledge of DYOA members, in creating centers and youth cultural rooms in the provinces, in the growth and development of youth military and political education, in creating military schools and in eliminating the shortage of qualified teachers.

Esteemed Najibullah issued instructions to the relevant officials on solving the problems and difficulties of the DYOA provincial committees.

In conclusion, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, first secretary of DYOA Central Committee, spoke on behalf of the DYOA members and pledged all efforts and activity to implement the national reconciliation policy.

### Briefs

#### DYOA Messages to Leaders

Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR—The students of Kabul City and members of Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan (DYOA) and Afghan pioneers have sent messages to a number of statesmen and political figures of the world. The messages which addressed Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the UN; Robert Mugabe, chairman of Nonaligned Movement; Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India; Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC; Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; and Organisation of Islamic Conference have appealed that they should endeavour for the success of Geneva talks. "We back solution of the situation around Afghanistan and cessation of war. We are in favour of prevailing a peaceful atmosphere and tranquility in our country", the messages say. The prospect of ensurance of peace has been provided in Afghanistan, every effort should be made to avail ourselves of this chance for the cessation of war in Afghanistan. Every nation has the right to shape its own destiny. Afghans will not allow any other nation to interfere in the internal affairs of their homeland. Afghans condemn such heinous designs, the messages stress. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 9 Mar 88 LD*]

## Bangladesh

### 4 Foreign Fishing Vessels Impounded 8 Mar

*BK09041 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The Bangladesh Navy ship Surma during its routine anti-smuggling drive yesterday impounded 4 foreign fishing boats inside our territorial waters near the Fairway Bay.

The impounded vessels along with their crew will be handed over to appropriate authorities for necessary legal action.

### Former Tanzanian President Arrives for Visit

*BK081559 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Text] The former Tanzanian president and chairman of the South Commission [as heard], Julius Nyerere, arrived in Dhaka this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Bangladesh. President Ershad received him at the airport. Two children presented bouquets to the distinguished guest. Airport ceremonies over, the president and Mr Nyerere drove in a ceremonial motorcade to the state guest house, Sugandha.

During the visit, Mr Nyerere will have talks with the president on the activities of the South Commission. He will exchange views for increased South-South cooperation. Mr Nyerere will also address economists, academicians, and intellectuals at the Institute of Development Studies.

## India

### Opposition Demands Government's Resignation

*BK091601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] A big rally was held by the Lok Dal-B and the Bhartiya Janata Party [BJP] at the Boat Club in New Delhi today to protest against what they called the government's failure on various fronts. Several opposition leaders criticized the center's policies, describing them as anti-labor, anti-farmer, and anti-rural.

They demanded the resignation of the government and fresh elections. A resolution adopted at the rally alleged that the Center is discriminating against non-Congress-I state governments in regard to drought and flood relief and development assistance. It called for the unity of all opposition parties to form a national alternative.

Those who addressed the rally included the BJP leaders, Mr L.K. Advani and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee; the Lok Dal-B leaders, Mr Bahuguna and Mr Devi Lal; Mr Ram Krishna Hegde of the Janata; Mr N.T. Rama Rao of the Telugu Desam; and Mr V.P. Singh of the Jan Morcha.

Shops and business establishments in some of the areas remained closed in response to a bundh [strike] call by the BJP and the Lok Dal-B. However, commercial and industrial centers functioned normally. The Delhi stock exchange was open. Attendance in government offices and banks was normal and school and colleges also functioned as usual. Buses, taxis, and autorickshaws were on the roads but inconvenience was caused by the diversion of bus services. No untoward incident has been reported.

### New Head Priest of Golden Temple Installed

*BK091404 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, March 9 (AFP)—Sikh militants enthroned their candidate as the new head priest of the Golden Temple here Wednesday in a move seen as strengthening their hold over the Sikh religion and politics.

Sikhs armed with automatic weapons ringed Jasbir Singh Rode as he was installed as the priest controlling the Akal Takht (throne beyond time), the seat which symbolises the temporal authority of God, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent said.

"Total freedom is the goal of the Sikhs," Jasbir Singh, who was released from prison on Friday, said in a speech to some 8,000 Sikhs who watched the three-hour ceremony in this Sikh holy city in Punjab.

"The Sikh struggle for freedom and liberation shall continue," he said to cheers from the gathering which included several militant, religious and political leaders. Outside the temple, security forces were deployed in large numbers.

In New Delhi, a government official who requested anonymity told AFP that Jasbir Singh's enthronement could be seen as the militants tightening their grip over the temple and by extension the Sikh religion, of which politics is an integeral part.

The federal government was "waiting and watching" how the situation develops, the official said. [passage omitted]

### 'Terrorists' Kill 5 in Punjab 9 Mar

*BK100318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including two women, were shot dead by terrorists at Kot Khalsa area on the outskirts of Amritsar city last night. The terrorists got into the house of a former sarpanch [headman] of the village and shot dead the inmates. In another incident, terrorists shot dead a farmer, Dalbir Singh, his wife, and his nephew in Kapurthala District last night.

A terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces in village Bainigilan in Amritsar District.

### 3 Policemen Killed in Amritsar

*BK101243 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] In Punjab, three policemen were shot dead and a student seriously injured when terrorists struck in Deriwal village in Amritsar District today. An official spokesman said the policemen were on security duty at an examination center in a school in the village.

### Violence Continues in Darjeeling Hill Areas

*BK091603 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has called upon the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] to withdraw its bundh [strike] in the Darjeeling hill areas without any precondition. He has also told the GNLF president, Mr Subhash Gheising, to stop the violence and restore normalcy in the hill areas.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, told newsmen in Calcutta that Mr Buta Singh rang him up today to inform him about this. He said special security arrangements had to be made in view of growing violence in Darjeeling. He said these could be relaxed only if normalcy is restored. Mr Basu added that he may be visiting Delhi next week to have discussions with Mr Buta Singh on the Darjeeling situation.

Meanwhile, violence continued in the Darjeeling hill areas with the GNLF activists throwing bombs at power stations and police parties. Two bombs were also thrown on the vehicle of the DIG [deputy inspector general], Darjeeling range. Five activists were arrested while they were throwing a bomb at a subpower station at Wacharbasti in Darjeeling last night.

### Pant on Response to Possible Attack in Siachen

*BK100811 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0730 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, assured the Rajya Sabha today that the Indian Army is prepared to meet any threat to the Siachen area, which is an integral part of India. The minister gave this assurance during the question time when his attention was drawn to the reported statements of the Pakistani president in recent months.

The minister said that the government has seen the press reports and has taken note of them. The government is in favor of a peaceful resolution of all bilateral issues. In case Pakistan attacks, it will get a befitting reply, the minister added.

### 18 Injured in Tibetan Protest in New Delhi

*BK101557 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] A demonstration by Tibetan refugees turned violent in New Delhi today, resulting in injuries to 18 people, including 14 policemen. According to Delhi police, a mild cane charge was resorted to when the refugees indulged in brickbatting after they were refused permission to march to the Chinese Embassy, in view of the prohibitory orders. A case of rioting has been registered.

### Former President Rejects 'Speculative' Reports

*BK091553 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The former president, Giani Zail Singh, today dismissed recent press reports attributed to him as mere speculation. In a statement issued in New Delhi, he said he does not know the origin of these press reports and write-ups attributed to his name. He pointed out that he has not given any other press interview except the one given to a Calcutta-based news magazine. He said the names of several leaders, former colleagues in government and parliament, have been mentioned in the report. This could have stemmed only from speculative minds.

The former president urged newsmen not to drag his name into unsavory controversies which do not serve any purpose. He said he had the best of relations with the press, but was pained to note that some of them have excelled themselves in giving a free rope to their imagination.

In his interview to the Calcutta magazine, Giani Zail Singh had said that some leaders had offered to spend 30 to 40 crore rupees for his reelection last year. He has not given out any names. Newspapers have been mentioning several leaders in this connection.

## Iran

### Missile Attacks, Ground Operations Continue

#### More Iraqi Missile Attacks

*LD091708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1630 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The aggressor Iraqi regime, continuing its attacks on residential areas of our country, has again fired missiles on Tehran last night and today. As a consequence of these savage attacks, a number of our compatriots were martyred or wounded, including women and children. These cowardly attacks also caused some damage to a number of residential units, shops, and cars.

The Zionist Iraqi regime of Iraq, persisting in its wicked deeds, also attacked the cities of Nahavand, Ilam, Hamadan, Dezful, Bakhtaran, and two villages in the Gilan Province today. According to preliminary figures, as a result of these savage attacks, five people have been martyred and a number injured. Iraq's barbaric attacks against these regions also caused damage to people's houses.

#### Communique No 3,136

*LD091623 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT*
*9 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed positions and concentration sites of Iraqi armoured units in Al-'Amarah southeastern Iraq at 13:15 hours local time (09:45 GMT) Wednesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses. All fighters returned safely to bases.

The 3136th joint staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that Iranian long-range artillery fire heavily shelled economic and military centers in Naft Khaneh, Mandali, Banmil, Halvan [placename as received], Kyasorkh [placename as received], Khanaqin and Basra over the past 24 hours, in retaliation for the ongoing Iraqi attacks on Iran's cities.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched 12 cargo ships and oil tankers Tuesday, but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday in support of the Navy.

Elsewhere on the war fronts, parts of Iraqi fortifications and several vehicles and munitions dumps were set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked activities of Iraqi tank squadrons in Panjwin, Mehran and Nahr 'Anbar yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on enemy tanks.

Several Iraqi patrol convoys were reconnoitered and shelled in Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Tuesday as a result of which they were forced to flee with several casualties.

Three enemy planes, attempting to approach the airspace of the southern Iranian islands at dawn Tuesday, were repelled by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire, concluded the communique.

### Iraqi Missile Attacks Continue

*LD100344 Tehran IRNA in English 0342 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—A number of civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran Wednesday night and early Thursday morning. Damage was also inflicted on some residential areas in these attacks.

### Iraqi Mirage Downed Over Arak

*LD101029 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—An Iraqi Mirage fighter was downed near the Iranian central city of Arak at noon Thursday, said a statement of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) headquarters.

The plane was downed by IRGC anti-aircraft defence units following a raid on residential quarters of Arak. Fate of the plane's pilot is yet unknown, added the statement.

### Jet Fighters Bomb Iraqi Sites

*LD101032 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi forces' positions in Al-'Amarah and military and economic installations in Basra at 08:40, 09:10 and 10:05 hours local time (05:10, 05:40, and 6:35 hours GMT, respectively) Thursday morning.

The fighters returned to bases safely after inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy.

### 10 Missiles Fired at Umm Qasr

*LD101051 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] This morning the important and strategic port of Umm Qasr was the target of 10 missiles of the IRGC naval force. The IRGC Joint Staff has issued a communique announcing:

In response to the Zionist Iraqi regime's wickedness in attacking our country's residential areas, the IRGC's naval force this morning fired 10 missiles at the important and strategic port of Umm Qasr, setting it ablaze. The noise from the missiles' impact could be heard from a great distance.

In addition, during these operations heavy losses were sustained by military, economic, and oil installations, the Iraqi Navy's 7th Headquarters, and vessels anchored in that port. A number of Iraqi troops were killed.

### Missiles Hit Tehran 10 Mar

*LD101109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The warmongering and aggressor regime of Iraq, in continuation of its atrocities of attacking our country's residential areas, today carried out a missile attack on Tehran and air raids on the cities of Hamadan, Arak, Dezful, Shustar, Shahr-e Kord, a rural district in Esfahan Province, and a village in the vicinity of the city of Borujerd. As a consequence of these savage attacks, several of our compatriots were martyred and several were injured.

This same report notes that during the Zionist regime of Iraq's attack against a rural district in Esfahan, a school and a mosque were hit and damaged. This report indicates that in the bombardment of a hospital in the city of Shushtar in Khuzestan Province, a number of patients in that hospital—including several women and children—were martyred and wounded.

Also during the enemy's barbaric attacks against Shahr-e Kord, a primary school, a girls' school, and a health and treatment clinic were damaged and a number of children martyred. This same report says that the city of Marivan, following a 24-hour lull, was subjected to long-range artillery fire by the Zionist forces of the Iraqi regime at 2220 last night.

### Baghdad Areas Hit by Missiles

*LD101156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Adab, the prime minister's liaison officer to the Friday prayer leaders, who is representing Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on visits to the cities hit by missiles, attended a gathering of various strata of Iranian people whose homes had been savagely attacked by the Iraqi regime. At this gathering, people chanted "war, war until victory," and called for the fighters of Islam to respond to these attacks on the battlefronts.

At this gathering, one of the inhabitants said: Ilam Province has been repeatedly attacked by the enemy. These bombardments have strengthened the morale of the Hezbollahi ummah and martyr-nurturing inhabitants of the province.

Another local inhabitant, who had recently been driven away from Iraq, noted the areas in Baghdad hit by the missiles of the fighters of Islam: (Al-Dawrah), which is the area of Baghdad where Iraqi ministers reside; (Al-Karrabah), where offices are concentrated and where the headquarters of the security and intelligence services and the Air Force of the Ba'th regime are based; (Umm al-'Abdul), the part of the city where the Ba'thists hold their meetings, a short distance from Saddam's palace; and the (Al-Rashid) and (Yirmuk) quarters as well. On the basis of this report, in this gathering [passage indistinct].

### Tehran Resembles 'Ghost Town'

*TA091425 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 88*

[Text] Reports from Tehran indicate that residents are spending the nights in their cars on open land outside the city. (?Fear) and concern have nearly paralyzed daily life. Many shops and large stores are closed. Most of Tehran's schools are partially closed as well. In some schools the principals are sending pupils back to their homes. Tehran itself resembles a ghost town.

### Soviet News Conference on Iraqi Missiles Noted

*LD101207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The Soviet Union announced yesterday that the missiles it gave to the Iraqi regime do not have the range to attack Tehran. According to REUTER, in a news conference yesterday in Moscow, high-ranking Soviet officials stressed that any adjustment made to increase the range of weapons received from the Soviet Union is contrary to the agreement between Moscow and Baghdad. According to this report, Soviet officials, who were responding to questions from reporters about Iranian accusations regarding Iraq's use of Soviet missiles in attacks on Tehran, refrained from commenting on the date of delivery of these missiles and on whether or not the delivery of these missiles to Baghdad will continue.

### Prime Minister Musavi on USSR Proposal at UN

*LD091235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting this morning. At the conclusion of this session, members of the cabinet, accompanied by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, planted several trees in the Prime Ministry courtyard marking the week of renewable resources. The prime minister was asked to explain the importance of tree planting and the biological role of plants in combating air pollution.

[Begin Musavi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I (?am no expert), but there is no doubt about the desirability of a green environment. Today is tree planting day, and this is significant. The cabinet is doing its part by demonstrating that under the enemy's rain of missiles, attacks, conspiracy, and destruction, our nation and the government as a whole are determined to continue the task of reconstruction. This runs contrary to the wish of the major powers. Moreover, Saddam is trying to prevent us from carrying out our daily routine through his attacks and missile fire.

This movement undertaken all over the country demonstrates the positive attitude of our nation, which fights, gives blood, tolerates hardship and bereavement, and at the same time does not for one moment neglect its task of building an independent and liberated country, a country wishing to remain free from the influence of arrogant powers. This example of large-scale tree planting, in addition to its obvious advantages, has a special meaning: Our nation is determined to carry on the task of reconstruction along with resistance, the achievements of our fighters, the work of our laborers in factories and farmers in rural areas, and the steadfastness of the zealous people of Tehran and other cities of the country. [end recording]

The prime minister then referred to the proposal of the Soviet representative at the United Nations to hold an emergency Security Council session on ending war of the cities. He also referred to the indifference displayed by international forums and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always opposed the war of the cities and still opposes it. He said: We did not start the war of the cities nor do we wish to continue it. However, we must defend ourselves in the face of Iraq's crimes and we must retaliate.

The prime minister said: If the Soviet proposal concerns ending the war of the cities and if the Security Council were to refuse to approve it, then this issue would underscore the evil intentions on the part of this council toward Iran, and its inhumane positions, despite its philanthropic and humane slogans. In any case, we are waiting to see what this official proposal is. If the proposal is about ending the bombings, then we welcome it. We have always pursued this position.

We believe that not only this issue, but other issues involving moves against the people, cities, trade routes, commercial shipping, and other similar issues can be discussed in the Security Council in order to halt this aggression. This move would be in the interest of the principles to which we are commited. We have said that the war should take place on the battlefront, face-to-face like men.

Addressing our country's resistant people, the prime minister said: The people know for what their resistance stands. We tolerate this hardship because we wish to be independent. It is natural that when the enemy is incapable of achieving anything on the front and finds itself in a weak position, it applies pressure on our nation in order to undermine all its gains of the past 7 or 8 years of resistance. Our nation is withstanding this pressure because of its commitment to Islam.

The prime minister continued: These days the people want to cooperate with the government in order to continue the resistance. We are enlarging our shelters daily and increasing our resistance against Saddam's aggression and any other possible aggression, so much so that our entire country will become a fortress. What we are witnessing all over the country demonstrates the cohesive will of our nation.

In reply to our correspondent's question on the links between Saddam and the CIA espionage organization since 1960, which was divulged by Syria's Defense Minister quoting Gamal 'Abd al-Nasir, the prime minister said: Although the remarks of Syria's defense minister are important for exposing this link, the attack launched by the Saddam regime on a revolution that is trying to kick the United States out of the region constitutes further evidence. We have always been aware of U.S. support for Saddam's crimes.

Yesterday, the White House spokesman once again formally expressed support for the crimes of the Saddam regime that is attacking our country's cities and added that if Saddam were to halt his crimes, this would slow down the process of trying to terminate the war.

**Commentary on Prospects for UN Agreement on War**
*LD091236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1110 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Station commentary: "The War of the Cities and the Security Council"]

[Text] As the Iraqi regime continues its attacks on residential areas in our country, something that has come to be known as the war of the cities, the UN Security Council plans to meet to find a way of ending it. On Monday, nearly a week after Iraq began its missile attacks and air raids on Iranian towns and villages, the Soviet envoy to the United Nations asked the organization to hold an emergency session. That was a unilateral move, taken without consultation with any other members. In his talks with the UN secretary general, the Soviet representative said that the recent escalation had no military objective, and that all the victims were innocent civilians.

Our UN representative welcomed the Soviet proposals, which he described as positive. Since the start of the new round in the war of the cities, Iran, including its UN mission, has repeatedly announced that it in no way favors the continued bombing of cities in either country. It has also been made clear that everything depends on Iraq and its supporters stopping their crimes.

However, having no regard for international norms, the Iraqi regime has responded by stating that its attacks will continue until Iran accepts Resolution No 598 as Baghdad wants. The U.S. mission to the United Nations, which strongly supports the positions of the Iraqi regime, has also reacted to the Soviet proposal.

The Americans emphasized that the council has already made a decision covering every aspect of the war; in other words, Resolution No 598. He [as heard] said: The important point is not to weaken or destroy past achievements. In the past, the Security Council tried in vain to resolve some of the aspects of the war in a minor way. Those efforts were unsuccessful.

According to political sources, the American reaction was announced at a time when the Reagan administration is engaged in an extensive political effort to force Iran, by any means possible, to accept Resolution No 598 in the way that Baghdad wants. The Reagan administration is also attempting to impose its plan for a 2-year arms embargo on others.

After Reagan's recent meeting with the Chinese foreign minister, the American President quoted him as saying that if the majority of members of the Security Council are in favor of the embargo, Beijing will also agree to it. However, most diplomats feel that these remarks were merely intended to encourage America's allies, and that the plan drafted by Washington and London still faces serious problems in the Security Council.

In any case, in light of the extensive nature of Iraq's attacks in the war of the cities, Washington's political and military collaboration with Iraq, and the possibility that French missiles have been added to the Russian ones, it does not seem likely that the Security Council can reach an effective agreement on the war of the cities in the near future. The Soviet proposal that the Security Council appoint a new official to investigate the Iran-Iraq war would also require a rather long period of time.

However, military experts believe that the Iraqi regime cannot continue the war of the cities for long. As we have seen in the past, Iraq will end it with some lying excuses without accomplishing anything. After all, the last few rounds in the war of the cities have proved that these

attacks and atrocities have had no effect on the determination of the Iranian people and officials to continue the war until total victory. Indeed, they have drawn people closer together than ever before.

In light of the retaliatory actions by the fighters of Islam, and in view of Iraq's smaller size and population, irreparable damage has been inflicted on that country.

Meanwhile, it is quite clear that Iran cannot accept Resolution No 598 in the way that the United States, the Western powers, Iraq, and the reactionaries want. The dispatch of popular forces to the front and the people's resistance will be the best guarantee for ending the next round of Saddam's crimes.

**Velayati, Envoy To USSR Meet With Majlis Speaker**
*LD101011 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Iran's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Naser Heyrani-Nobari, met with Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Thursday morning.

**Khamene'i Sends Message to Nonaligned Chairman**
*LD101348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Message of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, to Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement: I take this opportunity to send my sincere wishes to Your Excellency, and I beseech God to grant happiness to the friendly people of Zimbabwe.

Mr Chairman, you are undoubtedly aware of all the recent attacks by the aggressive and warmongering Iraqi regime, the launching of nearly 40 missiles, and the bombardment of our houses, hospitals, schools, cultural and art institutions, and industrial centers. The warmongering Iraqi regime, in violation of human aspirations and of the Nonaligned Movement's principles, has once again demonstrated that it does not respect human rights and international laws and commitments. This has been the case during the last 8 years whenever the aggressor Iraqi regime acted in this manner. Of course, it has always been unsuccessful in reaching its goals and those of its allied arrogant powers, that is, the defeat of the firm determination and steadfastness of the Muslim revolutionary people of Iran.

This new phase in the aggression and attacks on Iran by the Iraqi regime is taking place at a time when the resisting and steadfast people of Palestine have begun a new chapter in their just struggles in the battle against the Zionist regime and when the oppressed people of South Africa are making great strides in confronting the aggressions of the racist South African regime. At this time the aggressor regime of Iraq is striving to overshadow world media coverage of the burning revolutionary struggles of the oppressed nations of Palestine, Africa, and other places.

Mr Chairman, the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined on the basis of revolutionary and freedom-seeking policies to safeguard its just positions in its clashes with arrogance and to use its undisputed right of retaliation until the aggressor Iraqi regime is forced to value human rights and respect international commitments. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the prominent members of the Nonaligned Movement, expects the Nonaligned Movement to exercise its resposibility in the face of these aggressions, as befits this movement. By applying pressure to the aggressor and racist Iraqi regime and by adopting proper position, the movement should compel the initiator of this inhuman aggression to halt these atrocities.

It is hoped that Your Excellency's efforts in this respect succeed. I renew my respects to Your Excellency and the friendly nation of Zimbabwe.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

**Correction to Larijani Rejects Soviet Denial**

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Rejects Soviet Denial," published in the Iran section of the 7 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 60:

Paragraph three, first and second sentence make read: ...Saddam Husayn's regime which will eventually fall. The Iranian people, he added emphatically, will never cease resisting... (supplying dropped line)

**Spokesman Criticizes Saudi Statement on Hajj**
*LD091205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman referred to the recent statement of the Hijaz government and the remarks of that regime's information minister on preventing pilgrims to the holy house of God from demonstrating, saying: By the Al Sa'ud regime's raising such issues—in addition to underscoring the vile aims and intentions of the regime to repeat such tragedies as Mecca's bloody Friday and the violation of the sanctity of the divine sanctuary—that regime is laying the groundwork to prevent Iranian pilgrims from attending and actively participating in the hajj ceremonies, the performance of which is a right of all the world's Muslims.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: This subject has reached a sensitive stage in which the oppressed and resistant Muslims of Palestine have, while chanting Islamic slogans, embarked on a heroic war against the Jerusalem occupying regime. They are calling on Islamic

countries to demonstrate seriously their support for the popular demonstrations and overt actions, and not merely to issue statements. It is within this context that the Al Sa'ud regime described as blasphemous any demonstrations and chanting of slogans during the hajj.

The hajj is actually the best place and time to voice the desire of Muslims to support the Muslim Palestinian nation and to express their hatred for the Jerusalem occupying regime and its allies. It is natural that a regime that considers Israel and the United States as its gods to consider their disavowal to be blasphemous.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said in conclusion: Those who do not have the capability and the competence to administer the holy sanctuaries cannot prevent the world's Muslims from confronting their anti-Islamic and anti-populist policies.

## Nepal

### Prime Minister Administers Oath to New Cabinet

*BK091537 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] At the command of his majesty the king, Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, in the presence of his majesty, administered the oath of office to the newly appointed ministers: Bala Ram Ghartimagar, Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, Mrs Shushila Thapa, Keshar Bahadur Bista, Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, Dr Mohammad Mohsin, [name indistinct].

The prime minister also administered the oath of office to ministers of state: Dipak Bohra, Badri Prasad Mandal, Gagan Jung Bahadur Singh, Buddhi Man Tamang, and Niranjan Thapa; and assistant ministers: Sharat Singh Bhandari, Ang Tsering Lama, Uttam Bahadur Pun, Prem Bahadur Shahi, and Chettra Bahadur Gurung.

By command of his majesty the king [words indistinct], in the presence of his majesty, administered the oath of office of Raj Sabha the official memberships to newly appointed ministers Bala Ram Ghartimagar, Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, Mrs Shushila Thapa, Keshar Bahadur Bista, Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, and Dr Mohammad Mohsin in the same function. This was stated in a notice issued today by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king.

## Pakistan

### Junejo Comments on Signing Geneva Agreement

*BK091134 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said that the interest of Pakistan will be safeguarded while signing the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan issue.

Addressing a representative gathering in Karachi this afternoon, he said we are heading toward a solution of Afghanistan issue and a decision will be taken in the greater interest of the country.

The prime minister said that no decision has so far been made and Pakistan will sign the agreement only after completing consultations with the representatives of the people within the country. He said it is our earnest desire that the Afghan refugees should go back to their country with honor and dignity after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

### PML Endorses Junejo's Position

*BK100517 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The PML parliamentary party has expressed its full confidence in the prime minister's position on the settlement of the Afghanistan problem, and expressed its appreciation for his consultations with political leaders and other people representing the various sections of society on this issue.

At a meeting last night, which was chaired by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, the party stated that whatever decision is made in this connection, it will undoubtedly reflect the opinion of the entire nation.

After the meeting, Malik Naim Khan, the PML general secretary, told newsmen that the meeting discussed in detail the latest situation concerning the Afghanistan problem.

The prime minister explained in detail the background of the issue in light of the announcement made by Soviet leader Gorbachev on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan beginning 15 May. He also spoke about efforts being made at the national and international levels to resolve the Afghanistan problem.

While welcoming the Soviet offer, party members underscored the need to establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan, saying that this is the only way to create suitable conditions under which the Afghan refugees can return to their homeland with safety and honor. They said the basic idea is to prevent any bloodshed in Afghanistan following the Soviet troop withdrawal.

### Official Says No Air Base for Foreign Powers

*BK100827 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] The Senate was informed today that the government has not yet taken any decision regarding purchase of frigates for the Navy and the matter is still under consideration. This information was given by the minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud, during question hour.

Replying to a supplementary question, he said Pakistan is following the policy of complete neutrality and no airport is being developed for a base for any foreign country.

## Sri Lanka

### 4 Provincial Council Elections Set for 28 Apr

*BK100332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, elections to four provincial councils will be held on the 28th of next month. The date was announced by the Commission of Elections in Colombo yesterday. The main opposition, Sri Lanka Freedom Party, has boycotted the provincial polls.

Meanwhile, four persons, including one gram sevak [village-level government official], were killed in violent incidents in the south of the country by suspected JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] members.

## NOTES